CITY HILIGHTS

www.ibcworldnews.com | The Truth Speaks | MONDAY ▸ DECEMBER 8, 2025 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 143 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00 | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

KRISTU JAYANTI

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956

A CMI INSTITUTION | BENGALURU | INDIA

Kristu Jayanti Institute of Management

MBA | **MBA** Business Analytics | **MBA** International Business
MBA Fintech | **MBA** International Finance | **MBA** Strategic Finance

Kristu Jayanti College of Law

B.A., LL.B. | **B.B.A., LL.B.** | **B.Com., LL.B.**
(5 year Integrated Programme)

Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University)

SCHOOL OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT

M.Com	Master of Commerce
M.Com	Financial Analysis
M.Sc.	Economics
BBA	Bachelor of Business Administration
BBA	Aviation Management
BBA	Branding and Advertising
BBA	Business Analytics
BBA	International Business
BBA	Fintech & Banking
BBA	Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
B.Com	Bachelor of Commerce
B.Com	ACCA
B.Com	Business Analytics
B.Com	Business Process Management
B.Com	International Business and Finance
B.Com	Investment Banking
B.Com	Logistics and Supply Chain Management
B.Com	Professional
B.Com	with CMA
B.Sc.	Applied Economics
PGD	Business Administration

SCHOOL OF SCIENCES

MCA	Master of Computer Application
M.Sc.	Biotechnology
M.Sc.	Biochemistry
M.Sc.	Microbiology
M.Sc.	Forensic Science
M.Sc.	Computer Science
M.Sc.	Data Science
BCA	Bachelor of Computer Applications
BCA	Analytics
BCA	Cloud Computing
BCA	Cyber Security
BCA	Internet of Things
B.Sc.	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
B.Sc.	Data Science
B.Sc.	Computer Science, Physics, Electronics
B.Sc.	Computer Science, Statistics, Economics
B.Sc.	Computer Science, Statistics, Mathematics
B.Sc.	Biotechnology, Genetics, Biochemistry
B.Sc.	Microbiology, Genetics, Biochemistry
B.Sc.	Botany, Biotechnology, Biochemistry
B.Sc.	Forensic Science, Criminology, Biochemistry
B.Sc.	Biotechnology, Forensic Science, Biochemistry
B.Sc.	Forensic Science

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

MA	English Literature
MA	Journalism and Mass Communication
MA	Public Administration
MSW	Master of Social Work
M.Sc.	Psychology
M.Sc.	Clinical Psychology
M.Sc.	Counselling Psychology
BA	English Literature
BA	History, Political Science, Sociology
BA	Journalism, Psychology, English
BA	Journalism and Mass Communication
B.Sc.	Psychology
B.Sc.	Visual Communication

Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University)
K. Narayanapura, Kothanur P.O., Bengaluru,
Karnataka - 560 077. Tel: 080-68737777
Fax : 080-68737799

Application forms are available on our College Website
www.kristujayanti.edu.in
+91 9449451111 admission@kristujayanti.com

QUICK READ

Jailer, Staff Assaulted by Inmates at Karwar District Prison

Karwar

In a shocking incident, two inmates from Mangaluru allegedly attacked the jailer and staff at the Karwar District Prison on Saturday. The inmates, identified as Mohammad Abdul Fayaz and Kaushik Nihal, reportedly assaulted Jailer Kallappa Gasti and three staff members who were on duty. The attack is believed to be a reaction to the recent tightening of checks on the supply of banned substances inside the facility. Prison authorities had enforced strict restrictions on the use of tobacco, ganja, cigarettes, and other contraband, which the accused inmates allegedly objected to. The confrontation escalated, resulting in the assault, and the jailer and staff suffered injuries, with their uniforms torn. The injured personnel have been admitted to the Karwar District Hospital.

Three Held for Stealing Car, Reselling it with Fake Number Plate

Kasaragod

Police have arrested three individuals for stealing a car worth ₹12.8 lakh and reselling it with a fake number plate. The vehicle was stolen from the courtyard of Mohammed Mustafa's house in Izzatnagar near Ulliyathadka on December 1. The accused, identified as P.K. Asaruddin (36) of Mannarkkad in Palakkad district, Ranjan Sultan Basheer (25) of Dehali Aramangan Road, and P.H. Hamnas (25) of Thalangara Theruvath, allegedly replaced the car's original registration number with a fake Tamil Nadu number plate before selling it to Asaruddin for ₹1.7 lakh. Police recovered ₹1.40 lakh from the residence of one of the accused during the investigation. The car has been traced to Kerala, and further action is being taken.

Car Crashes into Bus Stop, Driver Injured

Udupi

A car crashed into a bus stop on National Highway 66 near Vidyanikethan School in Kaup on Sunday morning, leaving the driver seriously injured. The accident occurred when the car, driven by Ismail from Koppalanagadi, lost control and rammed into the bus stop while heading towards Uchchila. Ismail was rushed to Jalaluddin Uchchila and Hamied Udupi Private Hospital in an SDPI ambulance. Kaup police are investigating the incident. The accident has caused concern among locals, who are urging authorities to take measures to prevent such incidents. The bus stop was reportedly damaged in the crash, and efforts are underway to repair it. Further details are awaited.

Mystery survey in Salakani village raises concerns over river linking

KARWAR

A survey conducted by two unidentified individuals in the forest area of Salakani village, part of the Bedti-Varada River linking project, has sparked concerns among locals. The individuals, claiming to be from Hyderabad-based Aquilia Drilling Private Limited, were questioned by villagers, who are now demanding clarity on the purpose of the survey.

According to locals, the surveyors had marked roads and trees with paint in areas including Dugugmane, Yadimatha, and Thattisar. Villagers allege that the surveyors, from Kerala and Rajasthan, failed to provide clear information about their activities, raising suspicions.

"We are concerned about the lack of transparency," said Anasuya Hegde, president of Salakani Gram Panchayat. "They claimed to have permission from the district collector, but there was no signature on the document."

The incident has drawn attention from local leaders, including N.S. Bhat, convener of the Bedti-Aghanashini Kol Haritaksaana Committee, and Shiva Hegde, president of the Forest Committee. Locals are urging authorities to investigate and provide clarity on the survey's purpose.

The villagers are also questioning the government's intentions, as the survey was conducted without their knowledge or involvement. "This is a serious issue, and the district administration should take action," said a local resident.

The Bedti-Varada River linking project has been a topic of discussion in the region, with locals expressing concerns about its potential impact on the environment and their livelihoods.

Sea Ambulance Service to Save Fishermen's Lives in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

The City is set to get its first sea ambulance service, aimed at rescuing fishermen during emergencies in deep waters, before the onset of the next monsoon. Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Mankal S Vaidya announced on Saturday that the service will become operational by May 2026.

The government had assured fishermen of a dedicated sea ambulance system to strengthen maritime safety, and the tender process has been completed. A Chennai-based agency has begun constructing the specialized vessel, which will be equipped with an 800-HP engine, paramedical staff, and essential facilities, including a mortuary.

The sea ambulance, costing ₹7.85 crore, will be stationed at one of the fisheries ports along the coastal belt and is expected to reach distressed vessels quickly. State Director of Fisheries Dinesh Kumar Kaller said the vessel will be a significant boost to maritime safety in the region.

The announcement comes on the heels of the foundation stone laying ceremony for a ₹37.47 crore project to modernise the Mangaluru fisheries harbour under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The project aims to improve facilities at the harbour, including reconstruction of the old wharf, improvements to drinking water supply, and establishment of sewage and effluent treatment plants.

The Union government will contribute ₹22.48 crore, while the remaining ₹14.98 crore will be funded by the State. The project is expected to benefit the local fishing community and enhance the overall infrastructure of the harbour.

Establish HC Bench in M'luru, Judiciary Urged

MANGALURU

A delegation of advocates from the coastal region, led by MLC Ivan D'Souza, met Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bhakru on Saturday, urging him to sanction a High Court Bench in Mangaluru. The delegation emphasized the pressing need for a local Bench, citing the undue hardship faced by litigants who are forced to travel to Bengaluru to pursue cases.

The advocates pointed out that the lack of a local Bench results in abnormal delays in the disposal of cases from Chikkamagaluru, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Kodagu districts. They also highlighted the challenges posed by frequent disruptions in road and rail connectivity, particularly during the monsoon season, making it difficult for people to travel to Bengaluru.

D'Souza, convener of the High Court Peetha Horata Samiti, Mangaluru, informed the Chief Justice that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had recently expressed willingness to establish a High Court Bench in Mangaluru. He stressed that coordinated efforts by the judiciary and executive could help realize the proposal. The delegation suggested that a circuit Bench be sanctioned initially, followed by a permanent Bench.

Chief Justice Bhakru responded positively to the demand, assuring that a decision would be taken shortly. The delegation included Mangaluru Bar Association president H.V. Raghavendra, Principal District Government Pleader M.P. Noronha, and representatives of bar associations from Udupi district. The move is seen as a significant step towards ensuring speedy justice for the people of coastal Karnataka.

Belthangady Court Postpones Hearing in D'sthala Village Case

BELTHANGADY

The Belthangady court on Saturday postponed the hearing related to the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) report seeking directions for further investigation in the Dharmasthala village case. The matter has now been adjourned to December 9.

SIT officials had submitted details of nearly 120 days of investigation to the Beltangady court on November 20, requesting guidance for the next phase of the probe. Government prosecutor Divyaraj had sought more time on December 2, leading to the postponement of the hearing.

In a related development, the Mangaluru District and Sessions Court has granted conditional bail to key accused Chinnayya. His legal

counsel has filed an application seeking police protection for him once he is released. The court is expected to consider the bail conditions and protection plea in the coming days, as the case continues to unfold. The SIT is likely to continue its investigation and submit further reports to the court. Chinnayya's release is pending fulfillment of bail conditions, and authorities are awaiting further instructions from the court.

VHP Warns of Statewide Stir in Karnataka Over Proposed Cattle Transport Law Amendment

UDUPI

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) has demanded the immediate withdrawal of a proposed amendment to the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, alleging that it would weaken a law that has effectively curbed illegal cattle transportation.

The VHP's Go Raksha Wing, Karnataka South, has announced district-level protests on December 8 in response to the state government's proposal to amend the law, which currently mandates a bank guarantee for securing the release of vehicles seized for alleged illegal cattle transportation. The proposed amendment would allow for the release of such vehicles on an indemnity bond instead.

VHP leader Sunil K R claimed that the government's move was "sympathy for cattle lifters" and part of broader actions "targeting Hindus". He argued that the existing law is stringent and has played a crucial role in reducing incidents of illegal cattle transport and theft.

The VHP leader warned that easing the process of vehicle release would encourage offenders and lead to increased cruelty against cattle. He claimed that the strict enforcement of the 2020 law had brought down cases of cattle-related offences significantly, and that rolling back these provisions would reverse those gains.

The VHP has threatened a statewide stir if the government does not reconsider its decision and preserve the integrity of the existing law. The organisation's protests are expected to intensify in the coming days, with the VHP urging its supporters to participate in the district-level protests on December 8.

Address Fishermen's Needs, Minister Urges Governments

MANGALURU

Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Minister Mankal S Vaidya has stressed the need for both the Union and state governments to understand the real needs of fishermen before planning schemes for them. Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony for the modernisation of the Mangaluru fishing harbour under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, he said a proposal highlighting these concerns has already been sent to the Centre.

The minister highlighted the challenges faced by fishermen, including fines imposed when their boats cross state borders, and urged the Centre to create policies based on local needs. He also mentioned that diesel without tax is being provided to fishermen, and subsidised fuel is supplied at Rs 35 per litre in the three coastal districts.

The harbour development works are being taken up at a cost of Rs 37.47 crore, with the Union government providing 60% of the funds and the state 40%. The project includes road works, drainage, drinking water tanks, cold storage, auction hall, harbour office renovation, and up-

grades to the joint director's office.

Udupi-Chikkamagaluru MP Brijesh Chowta said the Union government aims to double fishermen's income under the Matsya Sampada Yojana and urged the minister to expedite dredging work and the Lakshadweep jetty project. MLA D Vedavyas Kamath suggested promoting seaweed cultivation and tourism-related projects through the Maritime Board.

The event was attended by Coastal Development Authority chairman M A Gafoor, Fisheries Department deputy director Dileep Kumar, and fishing community leaders. The minister assured that efforts will continue to address the remaining issues faced by the fishing community, including the provision of alternative systems to fuel and encouragement of seaweed farming.

Court Hands Down Harsh Sentences to Five drug peddling

MANGALURU

In a significant victory against drug peddling, the Principal District and Sessions Court in Mangaluru has sentenced five individuals to rigorous imprisonment terms ranging from 12 to 14 years for attempting to sell the banned drug MDMA to students within the city.

The convicted individuals are Luwal Daniel Justin Bolo, Mohammed Rameez, Moyideen Rasheed, Abdul Ravoop, and Sabita, who were arrested by the Mangaluru City Crime Branch (CCB) police on June 6, 2022, while allegedly trying to sell MDMA to students. The police seized 125 grams of MDMA from their possession, and a formal case was registered at the city's CEN Police Station.

The court sentenced the accused to imprisonment terms as follows: Luwal Daniel Justin Bolo (12 years and 6 months), Mohammed Rameez (14 years and 6 months), Moyideen Rasheed (12 years and 6 months), Abdul Rauf (13 years and 6 months), and

Sabita (12 years and 6 months). They were also fined amounts ranging from Rs 1,35,000 to Rs 1,55,000.

The prosecution, represented by NDPS Special Court Public Prosecutor Judith, presented a strong case against the accused, and the court determined that all five were guilty of the charges against them. The sentences were handed down under Sections 21, 21(c), and 27(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The court's verdict sends a strong message to those involved in the drug trade, highlighting the serious consequences of peddling banned substances to students and the commitment of law enforcement agencies to curb such activities.

National Lok Adalat Scheduled in Dakshina Kannada on Dec 13

MANGALURU

A National Lok Adalat will be held on December 13 at the court premises of Mangalore, Bantwal, Belthangady, Puttur, Moodabidri, and Sullia, aiming to provide speedy justice through mutual settlement and conciliation of disputes.

At a press conference, Basavaraj, Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, highlighted the types of cases that can be resolved through the Lok Adalat. The initiative seeks to offer efficient and amicable resolutions to pending cases, reduce the judicial burden, and promote harmony.

The Lok Adalat will handle civil, criminal, and family disputes, providing a platform for parties to settle matters amicably. Part of a broader effort to enhance access to justice, the event encourages citizen participation, fostering a culture of conciliation, mutual understanding, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Justice Should Reach Every Corner of Society: Karnataka HC Chief Justice

KUNDAPUR

Students and youth play a crucial role in ensuring justice reaches the grassroots level, said Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru at a legal awareness program in Keradi village on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Bakhru emphasized that the constitution guarantees fundamental rights and duties to every citizen, and it is essential for everyone to be aware of them. He stressed that the judicial process should reach every individual, regardless of their social status.

Justice Anu Sivaraman, speaking at the event, highlighted the importance of making justice accessible to every household. "The success of this program depends on people benefiting from the various departmental stalls set up here," she said.

H. Shashidhar Shetty, member secretary of the State Legal Services Authority, explained that the authority aims to make villages dispute-free and provide legal aid to rural communities.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Udupi District Collector Swaroop T. K., Kundapur Bar Association President Shiriyara Gopalakrishna Shetty, and Keradi Gram Panchayat President Sudarshan Shetty.

The program featured a range of activities, including a Yakshagana performance and stalls providing information on various government schemes. Beneficiaries received symbolic order letters, marking the beginning of a new initiative to bring justice closer to the people.

CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

MONDAY ▸ DECEMBER 8, 2025 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 143 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

South Korea Forms Teams for Key US Talks P8

BOM Cuts Retail Loan Rates Following RBI Repo Rate Reduction P9

P10 Mohanlal to Play Prithviraj's Grandfather in Khalifa

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

Goa Nightclub Fire Kills 25
FIR Filed, Sarpanch Detained

Police launch legal proceedings after a deadly nightclub fire

NORTH GOA

Police late on Sunday night registered an FIR against the owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in North Goa, its manager and the event organisers after a deadly fire killed 25 people. The sarpanch of Arpora-Nagoa panchayat has also been detained in connection with the case, a senior official said.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has ordered a magisterial inquiry to probe the incident, which occurred after midnight at the popular party venue in Arpora village, about 25 km from Panaji. The club had started operations last year.

According to police, four of the deceased were tourists and 14 were staff members, while the identities of seven others are yet to be confirmed. The FIR has been registered against owners Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita. Cases have also been filed against the club manager and the organisers of the event held that night.

Police detained sarpanch Roshan Redkar, who had issued a trade licence for the premises in 2013. Redkar claimed that the club lacked permission for construction and that a dispute existed between the partners. He said the panchayat had issued a demolition notice earlier, but it was later stayed by the Directorate of Panchayats.

The Chief Minister said all six injured persons are in stable condition and are receiving proper treatment. A preliminary inquiry has revealed that the fire broke out on the first floor. Due to congestion and narrow exits, many people were unable to escape in time, and some got trapped on the ground floor, he added.

Fireworks likely cause of blaze; 4 staff members held

Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday said four staff members of the ₹Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub have been arrested following the fire tragedy, and he has ordered action against officials who allowed the club to operate while flouting rules. Preliminary inquiry revealed that "electric firecrackers" were set off inside which started the blaze, he said, adding that club owners Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra would soon be arrested. He has ordered vstate chief secretary Dr V Candavelou and Director General of Police Alok Kumar to identify and act against the guilty government officials, Sawant said, speaking to reporters hours after the fire at the club claimed 25 lives.

FIREWORKS IN THE FROST

Belagavi Session Set for a Stormy Start

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM, BENGALURU

The winter session of the Karnataka Legislature, beginning today in Belagavi, is expected to produce more political heat than the city's chill December weather.

With the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP–JDS alliance sharpening their swords, the 12-day session from December 8 to 19 promises heated debates, loud protests, and intense political drama.

At the heart of the tension are a series of issues that have put the Siddaramaiah-led government under pressure. Allegations of a 65 per cent commission scam, differences between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over the "CM gaddi," farmers' grievances, and administrative lapses are all expected to dominate discussions. The Opposition believes these issues provide enough ammunition to corner the government.

Yet, despite internal dissent, the ruling Congress is preparing to showcase a "Unity Parade" throughout the session. Party leaders are determined to downplay factionalism and put up a united front. The situation is not entirely different in the BJP camp, where internal rifts are visible. The suspension of Vijayapura MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, one of the BJP's most vocal critics of his own leadership, has weakened the Opposition's aggression in the Assembly. Without a strong Opposition leader, CM Siddaramaiah is expected to take on the BJP-JDS alliance with confidence.

Predictably, the BJP-JDS combine will seek to corner the government on corruption allegations, farmer issues—especially the delay in opening maize procurement centres and lack of adequate compensation for flood-hit farmers—and other administrative failures. To intensify pressure, the BJP has organised a massive farmers' meet near Suvarna Soudha, aiming to highlight what it calls the government's failure to address agrarian distress.

The saffron party is also expected to raise ideological issues, alleging "growing curbs and attacks on majority Hindus" and accusing the Congress of appeasing the Muslim community. BJP leaders have already chalked out a strategy to present these issues forcefully in the House and put the government on the defensive.

Overall, the Belagavi winter session is poised for high-voltage political fireworks. As the city warms up with debates inside the Suvarna Soudha and sizzling Belgaum Kunda outside, Karnataka's political temperature is all set to rise sharply despite the winter chill.

3 of family killed as car overturns in Mandya

MANDYA

Three members of a family, two of them women, were killed when the car they were travelling in overturned and fell into a ditch on Sunday, police said. The driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a bridge on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru National Highway at Nagamangala in Mandya district, police added.

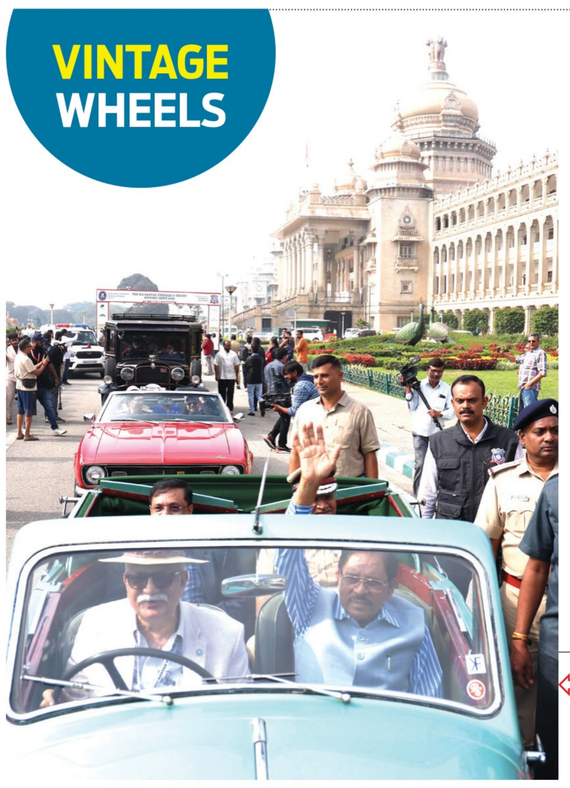
The deceased were identified as Chandregowda (62) and Sarojamma (57), both residents of Chikkamagaluru. They were returning to their hometown when the accident occurred, police sources said. In another incident near Agaralinganna Doddi in Maddur taluk, a private bus overturned on a service road, injuring more than 30 people. Locals helped rescue the passengers after the accident. The passengers were travelling to Bengaluru after visiting the Shimsha Maramma temple in Malavalli.

Defence Minister dedicates 125 BRO projects

LEH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated 125 newly completed projects of Border Roads Organisation to the nation from Leh on Sunday, calling them a "vivid example" of government's commitment to bolstering India's border infrastructure. These strategically significant projects -- built at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore and spread across the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, and seven states including Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Mizoram -- consisted of 28 roads, 93 bridges and four miscellaneous works.

VINTAGE WHEELS



People took part in a Vintage Car rally to mark an awareness campaign for Drug free Karnataka at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Home minister G.Parameshwar with DGP M.A.Salim, Bengaluru city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and others during the flag off of Vintage Car rally to mark awareness campaign for a Drug free Karnataka at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Sunday. ➤ CH PHOTO

Indigo cancels 650 flights, attempts to restore normalcy

MUMBAI

Indigo Airlines faced its sixth consecutive day of widespread disruption as it cancelled 650 flights on Sunday while attempting to restore normalcy.

Airlines sources said IndiGo planned to operate around 1,650 of its usual 2,300 daily flights — but many travellers remain stranded. The root of the disruption lies in the recently implemented second phase of new rest- and duty-time norms for crew under DGCA (Flight Duty Time Limitations or FDTL), which significantly increased mandatory rest periods and restricted night landings. The sudden enforcement caught IndiGo unprepared; the airline reportedly did not recruit or roster enough pilots in advance, leading to mass cancellations from major hubs like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and others.

In response, DGCA issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo's CEO, holding him "accountable for significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management."

QUICK READ

Cong seeks thorough probe into Goa nightclub fire

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday demanded a comprehensive investigation and strict accountability for the tragic fire at a nightclub in Goa that killed 25 people, with Rahul Gandhi claiming it was a criminal failure of safety and governance. The fire broke out at Birch by Romeo Lane, a popular nightclub at Arpora village in North Goa, early Sunday, killing at least 25 people, including four tourists and 14 staff members, and injuring six others. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed his deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the blaze.

Run over by vehicle in MP's Gwalior, Cheetah cub dies

GWALIOR: A male cheetah cub that wandered out of the Kuno National Park (KNP) died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle on a highway in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district early on Sunday, police said. The incident occurred on the Agra–Mumbai National Highway in the Ghatigaon area, close to the Shivpuri district border, around 35–40km from the City, Gwalior Zone Inspector General of Police Arvind Saxena said. The nearly 20-month-old cub had strayed out of KNP and been separated from its mother. It died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle, Saxena said.

Will give suitable answer on L&O situation during winter session: HM

BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday said he would give a detailed and "suitable response" in the state legislature regarding Karnataka's law and order situation if the opposition raises the issue during the upcoming winter session. The BJP has already indicated that law and order will be one of its main points of attack.

The winter session will be held in Belagavi from December 8 to 19.

Parameshwara told reporters that while he is not denying incidents have occurred under the current Congress government, comparisons must be made with the BJP's tenure. He said he will present figures showing the situation then and now.

Responding to questions about alleged preferential treatment given to notorious criminals and a terror suspect in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail, the minister said many such incidents occurred during the previous BJP government as well.

He added that some old videos were circulated as if they were recent. Appropriate action has been taken against those responsible, he said, and he plans to explain each case in the Assembly.

On the SIT probe into allegations of multiple murders, rapes and burials in Dharmasthala, Parameshwara said the report has been submitted to both the court and the government. If raised in the House, he will present the factual position, stating there is "nothing to hide."

BOOM BEHIND BARS

Jail warden arrested for trying to smuggle weed

BENGALURU

A staff member at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison has been arrested for attempting to sneak banned items, hidden inside his undergarments, into the high-security facility.

Rahul Patil, a warden at the central jail, was intercepted at the main gate after security personnel from the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF) noticed something amiss. The door frame metal detector reportedly went off multiple times, prompting a thorough frisking. During the search, guards found two cigarette packets and around 60 grams of a thin, paper-like narcotic substance allegedly concealed on his person.

Prison Superintendent Paramesh, who lodged the police complaint, ordered Patil's immediate suspension following the discovery.

The Parappana Agrahara police have booked the warden under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, as well as the Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963.

The incident comes at a time when the police department is already reeling from several recent cases involving misconduct by its own personnel. The embarrassment has led State Police Chief MA Saleem to issue yet another circular, his second in two months, spelling out stricter guidelines to curb such breaches within the force.

Officials revealed that Patil joined the Department of Prisons and Correctional Services in 2018. He served at the Belagavi Central Prison for years before being transferred to Parappana Agrahara in June 2025. Ironically, less than half a year into his Bengaluru posting, he now finds himself behind bars in the very prison where he once worked, awaiting bail like any other accused.

Senior officers privately admitted that contraband smuggling inside jails remains a persistent issue, with several staff members caught in similar offences in the past.

Investigators are now looking into whether Patil was merely a courier or part of a wider supply chain within the prison ecosystem, and who the intended recipients of the seized items were.

QUICK READ

Police on alert ahead of New Year, Special training for bomb squad

Bengaluru

The car bomb blast near the Red Fort in Delhi has become a wake-up call for the Bengaluru Police. Therefore, the police are making preparations to prevent any untoward incident during the New Year celebrations. Special training is being given to the bomb detection and detonation squad personnel to operate in crowded places during the New Year celebrations. If a suspicious object is found in a crowded place, how should it be confirmed. If it is an explosive object, how the crowd should be cleared without causing panic among the people. How the suspicious objects should be transported and disposed of from there. The staff is being given all these pre-training. The staff is being trained on how to safely evacuate people from the scene without causing any inconvenience to the public.

Head constable suspended for stealing ₹11 lakh

Bengaluru

The process of suspension of police personnel in the city continues. Head constable Zabiullah has been suspended for alleged dereliction of duty for stealing Rs 11 lakh from a car seized in the premises of the police commissioner's office. The suspension order was issued on the basis of a preliminary report. The police had arrested the accused in a case and seized his car. The seized car was parked in the basement of the police commissioner's office. Investigations have revealed that head constable Zabiullah had stolen Rs 11 lakh from the same car. The case was investigated and Zabiullah was suspended on charges of dereliction of duty and theft.

Man stops bus in the middle of road, assaults driver

Bengaluru

A BMTC driver was assaulted in city. The young man stopped the bus in the middle of the road and assaulted him. The bus was on its way from Heggade Nagar to Bharathi City. The young man came on a bike. The argument over the issue has begun. The youth stopped the bus and assaulted the driver and lodged a complaint against the youth at the Sampigehalli police station.

Flat owners seek clear norms for forming associations

The owners are demanding to formulate regulations in order to protect the residents

BENGALURU

Owners of several apartment projects developed by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) have submitted a joint representation to the statutory body, seeking a clear procedure for forming resident associations. In their letter to the BDA Chairman, they said the authority's officials are now advising allottees to form associations to handle daily maintenance and housekeeping. While owners welcomed the move, they pointed out that the authority has not issued any framework or reference document detailing how such associations should be formed in the BDA housing complexes. The absence of a defined procedure, they said, has led to confusion on the ground. Different groups of residents are following their own interpretation of the process, leading to disagreements and friction within communities. Even BDA officials, the representation noted, often rely on informal methods due to the lack of standard guidelines.

There is confusion over which Act to register under, what responsibilities the association must take over, and how the handover (of houses) from BDA should happen... This ambiguity has led to conflicts among residents, repeated elections, and disagreements over the 1972 Act versus the Societies Act. Without a standard process, even registered associations in other BDA apartment complexes are struggling with what handover actually means. The BDA flat residents urged the authority to issue standard guidelines or a notification specifying the legal basis for registering associations, roles and responsibilities, election procedures and the transition process from the BDA management to an owners' association. They also requested BDA to appoint a nodal officer for each cluster to ensure consistency.

Reacting to this, BDA Chairman, MLA NA Harris said, we will be coming up with guidelines in the next 2 months for forming associations. It's important that these buildings are run the same way private developers maintain their projects.

KMF a state body, fully under RTI, says information commission

BENGALURU

In a decisive affirmation of transparency in cooperative institutions, Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) has ruled that the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is a 'state' body and unequivocally falls under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Extending this position further, the commission held that all its district-level unions, including BAMUL (Bangalore Urban, Rural and Ramanagara Cooperative Milk Producers' Societies Union Ltd) and KOMULl (Kolar District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union), are also public authorities mandated to furnish information sought by citizens. The order was issued by Information Commissioner S Rajashekara while hearing a second appeal filed by RTI applicant V Lokesh, who had sought details of an overseas tour undertaken by the KOMUL Managing Director and other officials. Lokesh filed his RTI plea on November 6, 2023, before the Public Information Officer of the Kolar-Chikkaballapur Milk Union Limited, formerly KOCHIMUL.

Rajashekara cited an earlier landmark judgment of Karnataka High Court, on October 22, 1993, in the KV Panduranga Rao vs Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation case, in which a three-judge bench declared KMF a 'state' under Article 12 of the Constitution. KIC noted that this legal position makes KMF and its unions fully accountable under the RTI framework, leaving no ambiguity about their obligations to disclose information.

KIC then examined the evolution of Karnataka's dairy cooperative structure, tracing its roots to the Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation (KDCC), a fully government-owned entity created in 1974 to implement the World Bank-funded Operation Flood programme. Following directions from the Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) and the Union government, KDCC was replaced with a cooperative mechanism to execute Operation Flood II. This culminated in the incorporation of KMF on Jan 10, 1983, under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act. KMF did not arise in a vacuum, the order observed.

> The intent of RTI Act is to ensure transparency wherever public funds, public resources, or public functions are involved. KMF's very functioning depends on govt-created structures. Information relating to foreign trips or any expenditure involving public money must be disclosed, S Rajashekara, Information Commissioner.

Farmers demand 50:50 allotment in Shivaram Karanth Layout

BENGALURU

Following the government's decision to allot 50 percent of developed land in the proposed Bidadi integrated township to farmers, those who parted with their land in north Bengaluru are also demanding equal share in the upcoming Shivaram Karanth Layout. Currently, they are eligible for 40 percent of the area under 60:40 ratio.

Representatives of farmers from 17 villages in the vicinity of Shivaram Karanth Layout met BDA Commissioner P Manivannan to present their demands. They objected to non-allotment of commercial sites, corner sites and sites along 100-ft, 80-ft and 60-ft roads to the farmers. Around 5,000 properties that were present before development of the layout have been charged varying amounts as betterment charges. "The rates vary between Rs 42 and Rs 1,028 per square feet, with each village having a different amount. However, the allotment rate is uniform across the entire area, M Ramesh, a farmer from Ramagondanahalli, told. Ramesh's family parted with 39 guntas, of which he owned 10 guntas, for the layout, except for his house, which was spared. The betterment charge in one village is Rs 465 per sqft, while it is as low as Rs 43 in the very next village. This is unscientific, he said.

Vasanth Kumar from Veerasagara said BDA must treat this as a special case with regard to betterment charges. Even as it is part of BDA's policy, this particular project is an exception as it has taken close to two decades. The charges must be reasonable, he said. Betterment charges are calculated from guidance value before and after completion of layout development. In some villages, the owner of a 30x40 plot will have to pay almost a lakh. While in others, the amount can go up to Rs 10 lakh, he added.

Siblings transfer post office deposits to crooks, lose ₹80 lakh

BENGALURU

Two elderly siblings from East Bengaluru were duped of Rs 80.5 lakh in a digital arrest fraud for a month, from Oct 30 to Nov 29.The siblings, a 74-year-old retiree and his younger sister, were targeted by fraudsters, who posed as police officials on a WhatsApp call on October 30. They accused the man of involvement in a money laundering case and placed him under 'digital arrest.' They later claimed that his younger sister's bank account was also linked to the alleged crime and put her under 'digital arrest' too. The fraudsters called the complainant at 9.30am, pretending to be Mumbai police officials and directed him to come to Mumbai for interrogation as his sim card and bank accounts were used in a money laundering case.

Pretending to conduct a virtual investigation, the fraudsters asked the man to be under digital arrest. One of them then contacted him, pretending to be deputy commissioner of police, claiming he had his Aadhaar and bank details. The fraudster asked him to provide details of his bank balance and account details voluntarily. He revealed details of his post office fixed deposit of Rs 30 lakh. The fraudster asked him to transfer the money from the post office to a bank account provided by him.

The victim transferred Rs 35 lakh, including his post office FD, on October 31. He said they were monitoring him and his sister online 24X7 and threatened them of arrest, if they stepped outside the house. On November 3, the fraudsters asked for his sister's post office FD to be transferred to another account. They made the siblings transfer Rs 16 lakh, Rs 19 lakh, and other amounts on different dates until November 10, totalling Rs 80.5 lakh. The fraudsters assured them they would return their money after verification. On November 29, the fraudsters asked them to go to police station and ask for their money.

Number of devotees going to Tirupati increases, huge demand for KSRTC buses

BENGALURU

The deity at Tirupati has devotees from all over the country and abroad, and there are lakhs of devotees in Karnataka as well. Especially during Vaikuntha Ekadashi, Christmas holidays and New Year, the number of devotees traveling to Tirupati from the state has increased, and there has been a huge demand for KSRTC buses.

Tirupati Thimmappa, who is worshipped as Balaji, the Kali Yuga incarnation of Vishnu, is the idol of millions of devotees. There are 280 buses plying to Tirupati daily from four transport companies in Karnataka.

Currently, the number of devotees going to Tirupati has increased due to Vaikuntha Ekadashi, Christmas holidays and New Year. Meanwhile, private buses are charging higher fares. In view of this, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has said that more buses will be launched by four transport companies including KSRTC in the coming days.

A large number of people visit Tirupati during festivals, holidays and New Year. During these times, they have to wait for three to four days to get darshan. Therefore, KSRTC has demanded that TTD issue darshan tickets soon. Responding to this, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that they have been placing their demand for issuing darshan tickets soon before the TTD administration for a long time.

Actor Darshan's physiotherapy treatment in jail suspended

BENGALURU

Actor Darshan's physiotherapy treatment in jail has been stopped after a doctor's report. A team of doctors from CV Raman Hospital has submitted a report to the jail authorities regarding the back pain of actor Darshan, who is in judicial custody in the Renukaswamy murder case. They said that it would be enough to treat Darshan in jail. During the court hearing, Darshan had claimed that he was suffering from severe back pain and was unable to stand or sit. In this context, the court had directed the jail authorities to provide him with appropriate medical treatment. As per the court order, a team of four doctors had started giving physiotherapy treatment to Darshan. The doctors used to visit the jail regularly to provide physiotherapy treatment two to three times a week.

Will you give a clean chit to your government, BY Vijayendra questions Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has given a clean chit to his government in the corruption case. When the previous BJP government was in power, he had accused 40 per cent of corruption.

The inquiry commission set up by the Congress government later gave a clean chit. Doesn't Siddaramaiah know about it. Will you give a clean chit to the government on the issue of corruption, asked BJP State President Vijayendra in the city.

Chief Minister's Economic Advisor Basavaraj Raya Reddy had said that Karnataka is the number 1 state in corruption in the country. "This is not about development, he said. Senior MLA BR Patil has spoken on the issue of corruption. He explained that the Chief Minister himself had admitted the scam of Valmiki Nigam in the House itself. He said the amount of the scam was low. He asked Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar if they had forgotten this. The Congress government does not have the moral courage to talk about corruption. BY Vijayendra asked.

Stating that the people of the state have not forgotten the MUDA scam, he asked why they returned the plots. Isn't this corruption? "The Congress government does not have the moral competence to talk about corruption, he said. Your colour has been exposed. Development work is not happening. You have not responded to the demands of the distressed farmers, he said. We will squeeze the ears of this government together with the BJP-JD(S), he said.

Teacher arrested for slapping 7th class student

BENGALURU

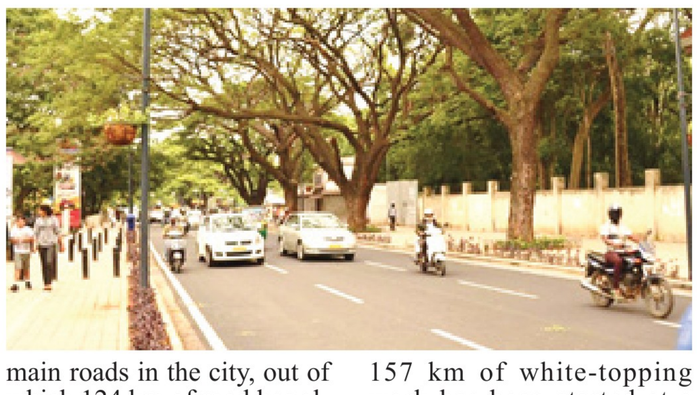
An FIR has been registered against a teacher who punished a seventh-grade student and he has been arrested. The FIR was filed after the Hulimavu police station arrested physical education teacher Rajesh. Rajesh worked as a physical education teacher at Narayana E-Techno School near Hulimavu. He slapped a seventh-grade student, on the forehead in front of four or five teachers. Rajesh is accused of keeping the student in the school until the evening without sending him home.

When the student did not return home in the evening, the parents came to the school. When they arrived at the school, they found their son's cheeks were swollen. They immediately took their son to the hospital and gave him treatment. Later, a complaint was filed against the teacher Rajesh at the Hulimavu police station. Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR and arrested him.

RELIEF FOR PEDESTRIANS AND COMMUTERS

Road development at a cost of ₹4,808 crore

BENGALURU



Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department Tushar Girinath said, Rs 4,808 crore is currently being spent on the development of main and sub-main roads and ward roads in the capital city of Bengaluru, and all the road works, except for the white-topping work, will be completed before the start of the monsoon season.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that there are 1682 km of main and sub-main roads in the city, out of which 124 km of road has already been developed in the white-topping model. Now, 157 km of white-topping work has been started at a cost of Rs. 1700 crore. Road asphalting of 392 km is in progress at a cost of Rs. 694 crore. It has been decided to asphalt the ward roads at a cost of Rs. 1,241 crore, and Rs. 900 crore under the Chief Minister's grant. Work is underway at a cost of Rs 273 crore for the development of 78 km of the high-density corridor, where IT and BT companies are located. Overall, Rs 4,808 crore is being spent on the development of existing roads in the city, he explained.

The asphalting works will be completed before the coming March-April. Of the white-topping work, about 34 km of the road has already been completed and vehicular traffic has been allowed. Work is in progress on a 30 km long road, and the overall work will be completed by September 2026, he said.

It was decided to develop MG Road, which has the highest traffic volume, in a white-topping model. However, due to the high traffic volume, the traffic police are not allowing it. Therefore, they said, they are considering asphalting it.

QUICK READ

Deepotsav at Biskur Ranganathaswamy Temple

Kudur

A spectacular Deepotsav was celebrated at the Biskur Ranganathaswamy Temple in Kudur Hobli, bringing together devotees from the village and surrounding areas. The day began with special floral decorations for the deity, creating a vibrant and devotional atmosphere. Villagers of Sondalagere took part in a lively procession, carrying the Ranganatha Utsav idol through the streets, marking the occasion with devotion and festivity. In the evening, the Deepotsav commenced with devotees lighting lamps across the temple premises, filling the surroundings with a warm and divine glow.

Grand Shiva Deepotsavam at Rajarajeshwari Temple

Anekal

The historic Rajarajeshwari Devi Temple in Haragadde village, under the Bangalore South Assembly constituency, hosted a grand Shiva Deepotsavam, drawing devotees from nearby regions. The centuries-old temple glowed with hundreds of oil lamps, creating a radiant spiritual atmosphere. Traditional rituals, including the Sahasra Modaka Homa, were performed as devotees from Haragadde, Nosennor, Dyavasandra and surrounding villages queued for darshan. The air resonated with chants, prayers and devotional music throughout the day. A special highlight was the active participation of women, who performed lemon aarti and lit belladarati (jaggery lamps) for the goddess. The beautifully decorated festival idol was later taken in a vibrant village procession accompanied by traditional music. The Mangalorean-style temple looked resplendent with shimmering lights, while women lit rows of lamps in the courtyard, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness. The celebration concluded with prasadam distribution, reinforcing the temple's cultural and spiritual significance.

Five NL-2025 projects approved, boosting village development

The NL-2025 scheme has approved major rural development works to improve infrastructure, public services, and living standards across Lakkavalli

BY K.A. RAGHAVENDRA
LAKKAVALLI

In Lakkavalli Gram Panchayat (GP) limits, a series of development initiatives have been launched under the NL-2025 rural development work plan, bringing renewed momentum to infrastructure and civic improvements across several villages.

According to Panchayat Development Officer K.A. Raghavendra, the NL-2025 programme has approved five major works, including road upgrades, drainage systems, and community infrastructure improvements across the region. The works span 21 tribal habitations, 10 Scheduled Caste localities, and 5 Scheduled Tribe settlements, ensuring coverage across all priority areas.

Officials noted that numerous Gram Panchayat regions—including Lwmooru, Vaddarahalli, Chikkamandavalli, and surrounding hamlets—have been identified for key interventions. These include road asphaltation, installation of streetlights, drainage construction, school facility repairs, and drinking water pipeline enhancements.

Raghavendra stated that the Panchayat has already completed preliminary inspections and that funds have been released to begin implementation. He said the development push is essential to uplift rural living standards and address long-pending civic challenges.

He also highlighted that earlier works under the 2016–17 development grants had brought improvements worth ₹1.5 lakh, and the new NL-2025 plan aims to extend similar benefits on a larger scale. The administration is coordinating with engineers and village leaders to ensure timely execution of the latest proposals.

Local leaders and officials, including Gram Panchayat President Malleshappa, Vice President Veena, members Kumar, Jayamma, Dinesh, Raghu, and others, participated in the inspection and planning meetings. They emphasized the need for transparent implementation and community monitoring.

As per the schedule, 26 different works will be undertaken across the GP jurisdiction under the current allocation. Officials assured that all projects will be completed within the stipulated timeframe to benefit residents at the earliest.

The Panchayat also urged villagers to cooperate with the work teams and report any irregularities immediately so that corrective measures can be taken.

Officer arrested in 2022 misappropriation case

Authorities arrested a government official for alleged misappropriation of funds in a 2022 case after detailed investigations concluded

CHITRADURGA

A government official has been arrested in connection with a financial misappropriation case dating back to 2022, following a detailed inquiry that brought to light serious irregularities involving public funds. According to the report, the incident pertains to misappropriation identified during the official's tenure, where funds meant for public welfare programs were allegedly diverted or mishandled.

Initial investigations revealed that financial transactions carried out in 2022 contained discrepancies significant enough to prompt a deeper probe. Officials found that amounts sanctioned for various development works were not properly accounted for. Suspicious entries in official records and unexplained gaps in expenditure statements became key evidence during the course of the investigation.

Based on the findings, the anti-corruption division proceeded with legal action. The accused officer, identified as U.A. … (name transliterated as per text), was taken into custody after investigators established direct involvement in the irregularities.

Authorities stated that the arrested individual had allegedly failed to maintain transparency and attempted to conceal specific transactions under misleading documentation.

The case was handled under the supervision of senior officials, including officers from the finance and audit departments. According to statements, the State Audit authority had earlier issued multiple notices seeking explanations on fund utilization. However, the officer reportedly failed to provide satisfactory responses, strengthening suspicions of deliberate wrongdoing.

Upon concluding the inquiry, authorities declared that evidence supported charges of misappropriation. The accused was subsequently arrested and booked under relevant sections pertaining to financial fraud and misconduct.

In their collective statement, officials including P.S. (designation), K.G. (designation) and J.M. (additional authority) emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring accountability. They noted that such actions reinforce the message that financial impropriety within public institutions will not be tolerated.

The case file, containing detailed audit reports and recorded inconsistencies, has now been forwarded to the judicial authorities. Further investigation is expected to determine whether additional individuals played a role in the misappropriation, as authorities continue verifying connected transactions.

69th Parinibbana Day of Dr. Ambedkar marked

RAMANAGARA

The 69th Maha Parinibbana Day of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, was observed across the district on Saturday with widespread participation from public representatives, Dalit organizations, community leaders, and officials. Devotees and dignitaries paid floral tributes to portraits of Dr. Ambedkar, honoring his legacy and contributions. At a program organized by the district administration at the District Collector's office premises, Legislative Council member S. Ravi offered floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar's portrait. In his address, he emphasized the enduring significance of Ambedkar's work, saying, Ambedkar gave us the powerful tool of the Constitution to fight inequality and build a just society.

A 65-year-old devotee tragically died after slipping while climbing Revana Siddheshwara hill in Ramanagara on Sunda

Devotee Dies in Tragic Fall While Climbing Revana Siddheshwara Hill

RAMANAGARA

In a tragic incident on Sunday morning, a devotee lost his life while climbing the Revanasiddheshwara hill in Avverahalli, Ramanagara taluk. The deceased has been identified as 65-year-old Revana, a resident of Billakempanahalli in Bidadi hobli.

Revana, a retired employee of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), had visited the hill along with his brother around 8:30 am to seek the blessings and darshan of his family deity, Revana Siddheshwara Swamy. Witnesses reported that while making his way up the hill, Revana slipped on the rocky terrain and fell from a considerable height. The impact of the fall caused severe injuries, and he was pronounced dead at the spot.

Local authorities and the Ramanagara Rural Police rushed to the scene immediately after being informed. The police cordoned off the area to ensure safety for other devotees and initiated an investigation into the incident. The body has been taken for a post-mortem examination, after which it will be handed over to the family for last rites.

The hill, which attracts hundreds of devotees every week, is known for its steep and rocky terrain, especially near the summit. Authorities have urged pilgrims and devotees to exercise extreme caution while climbing, particularly the elderly, and to avoid taking unnecessary risks during their visit. Signboards and safety advisories are also being considered to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Family members and locals have expressed deep grief over the untimely death of Revana, remembering him as a devout and respected member of the community. The incident serves as a reminder of the importance of safety measures while visiting religious sites located in hilly or uneven terrain.

Baby Dies During Delivery in Yadgir; Family Alleges Medical Negligence

YADAGIR

A newborn died during delivery at the Mother and Child Hospital in Yadgir district, with the family alleging that the infant lost its life due to medical negligence. The incident has sparked tension and protest outside the hospital on Sunday.

Leelavati and Devappa Chavhan, who had been awaiting a child for nearly 10 years, had admitted Leelavati to the hospital on Saturday, December 6, for delivery. In the early hours of Sunday, December 7, doctors performed a Caesarean section, during which the baby was declared dead.

Accusing the doctors of negligence, the grieving family placed the newborn's body in front of the hospital and staged a protest. They demanded strict action against those responsible, expressing deep anger over what they described as an avoidable tragedy.

However, hospital authorities denied the allegations. Dr. Shivakumar, a doctor at the Mother and Child Hospital, stated that the mother had developed high blood pressure and experienced excessive bleeding during labour. He said the medical team attempted to save both the mother and the child, but the baby had already died in the womb due to breathing complications.

Dismissing claims of negligence, Dr. Shivakumar stressed that the medical staff had acted promptly and followed all necessary procedures.

The incident has drawn public attention, and the family is urging authorities to initiate an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the newborn's death.

Safari Ban Severely Impacts Livelihoods in Mysuru–Chamarajanagar Region

CHAMARAJANAGAR

The ban on safari operations in the Mysuru and Chamarajanagar region has entered its second month, creating serious concern among communities whose livelihoods depend on wildlife tourism. The ban was imposed after an increase in tiger attacks, leading forest authorities to halt all safari activities on safety and scientific grounds. However, the continued suspension has triggered growing economic distress across the region.

For over a month, safari jeeps and buses have remained unused, leaving vehicle operators and drivers without income. Contract workers who rely on seasonal tourism have been hit the hardest, with many facing salary cuts and some fearing permanent job losses. Safari guides, who play a key role in assisting tourists during wildlife trips, now face financial uncertainty as their main source of income has disappeared.

The ban has also affected local businesses near safari zones. Shops selling jarkins, handicrafts, and forest products have shut down due to the absence of visitors.

Small vendors, food stall owners, and daily earners dependent on tourist flow have seen their livelihoods collapse, with limited alternative employment options available.

Resort owners, homestays, and hotel operators have joined local traders in urging the government to find a practical solution. While acknowledging safety concerns, they suggest a regulated reopening with strict protocols to balance tourism and conservation.

Rameshwara Swamy and Siddeshwara Swamy Dodda Jatra Mahotsava to Be Held in April

TAVAREKERE

In a significant cultural announcement, all clans and Kambi Yajamans of Tavarekere have jointly decided to conduct the grand Rameshwara Swamy and Siddeshwara Swamy Dodda Jatra Mahotsava in April next year. The decision marks the revival of an important tradition that holds deep spiritual and social significance for the local community.

The announcement came during the preliminary meeting of the Dodda Dyavara Jatra Mahotsava, chaired by Minister Bhairathi Suresh. Addressing the gathering, the Minister revealed that the Dodda Devara Jatra Mahotsavas of Bidarahalli, Vagata, Appasandra, Tavarekere and Banamakanahalli villages will be held again after a long gap of 11 years. He confirmed that the dates for all five Jatras have been finalized and stressed the need to begin preparations without delay.

Minister Suresh appealed to all Kambi Yajamans, clansmen, and residents of the region to participate actively and in large numbers. He emphasized that the Dodda Devara Jatra Mahotsava, celebrated once every 5 or 10 years, plays a vital role in preserving cultural unity and strengthening community identity. Ensuring its success, he said, depends on collective involvement and timely coordination.

K.R. Puram MLA Bhairathi Basavaraj, who was also present at the meeting, highlighted the special significance of the Tavarekere temples among the five. He noted that the Rameshwara Swamy and Siddeshwara Swamy temples are considered the most sacred, drawing thousands of devotees every cycle. He further announced that the major fair in Tavarekere and the Vadali Rameedevara Jatra in Banamakanahalli will begin on the same day, adding to the religious fervor of the region.

RESIDENCIAL SITES ALLOTMENT

37 families receive housing sites under govt scheme

GUBBI TALUK

In a significant welfare initiative, 37 eligible beneficiaries from Udaguru village in Gubbi taluk have been officially allotted residential sites under the government's land distribution scheme. The allotted plots, measured at 5,469 sq. ft collectively, were handed over to the families during a special program organized at the village. MLA P.M. Narendraswamy presided over the event and personally distributed the official grant documents to the beneficiaries.

Speaking at the program, MLA Narendraswamy emphasized that the government is committed to providing shelter and security to landless families. He said that effective implementation of such welfare schemes ensures social stability and helps rural families build a sustainable future. Special attention was given to families belonging to economically weaker sections, ensuring transparency throughout the selection and verification process.

As part of the allocation plan, sites were distributed in three categories based on eligibility and land availability. Beneficiaries ranked 1 to 4 were given plots in the first zone, 5 to 7 in the second zone, and 8 to 10 in the third zone.

Officials ensured that allotted sites met basic requirements and adhered to proper land records. Tahsildar, revenue officers and gram panchayat members supervised the verification process to prevent discrepancies in land markings.

During the event, several officials including revenue staff, village accountants, panchayat development officers and committee members were present. They coordinated closely with the MLA to execute the scheme in an orderly and transparent manner. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the government for fulfilling a long-pending demand for secure housing sites.

In addition to housing site distribution, MLA Narendraswamy also highlighted other developmental works underway in the region, including road improvements, drinking water facilities and agricultural support schemes. He assured that similar welfare programs will continue in the coming months to support more families in rural pockets.

Woman Commits Suicide by Jumping in Front of Train Near Chitradurga APMC

A 35-yr-old woman ended her life by jumping in front of a train near Chitradurga APMC, police confirmed

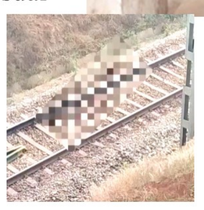
CHITRADURGA

In a tragic incident near the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Chitradurga, a 35-year-old woman committed suicide by throwing herself in front of a moving train. The railway authorities reported the incident on Sunday around 2:30 PM, prompting immediate action from local police.

The deceased has been identified as Roopa, a resident of Gopalapur Road in Chitradurga. According to her family members, the woman had a personal dispute with her husband, which allegedly led her to take this drastic step. The incident has left her family and neighbors in shock.

Police arrived at the scene shortly after receiving information from the railway department and began preliminary investigations. The body has been recovered and is currently at a local hospital for post-mortem procedures. Authorities are also verifying the circumstances leading to the tragedy.

Railway officials have urged commuters to be cautious near tracks and have advised reporting any suspicious or unusual activity. The incident has sparked conversations among local residents about mental health and the importance of addressing personal conflicts before they escalate.



Local authorities have extended support to the grieving family and are offering counseling services to help cope with the traumatic event. Meanwhile, police continue to document witness statements and railway surveillance footage to complete the investigation.

This unfortunate incident serves as a grim reminder of the pressures individuals may face in personal relationships and the urgent need for mental health awareness in communities.

Police Launch Investigation After Woman Commits Suicide by Train in Chitradurga

The Chitradurga police have identified the woman who tragically committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train near the APMC area. The incident occurred on Sunday around 2:30 PM, as reported by railway authorities. The deceased has been identified as 35-year-old Roopa, a resident of Gopalapur Road, Chitradurga. According to her family, Roopa had an argument with her husband over personal matters, which reportedly led her to take this drastic step. She jumped in front of a moving train, leading to her death at the scene. Police and railway officials arrived promptly after receiving information from local authorities. The body was recovered and shifted for post-mortem examination. Family members and locals expressed shock at the sudden incident and described Roopa as a calm and responsible individual.

Coffee Prices Rise, but Theft Cases Surge in Malnad; 20 Bags Stolen from Farmer

HASSAN

With coffee prices reaching profitable levels this season, incidents of coffee theft are rapidly increasing across the Malnad region. In the latest case, thieves stole 20 sacks of harvested coffee cherries from a farmer in Chinnenahalli village near Beluru, causing significant financial loss. The victim, Madhu, a local farmer, had recently harvested ripe coffee cherries and stored them in bags near his estate close to his house. However, when he visited the plantation the next morning to begin drying the beans, he discovered that all 20 bags had been stolen. Shocked by the incident, Madhu immediately alerted neighbours and local authorities. The stolen coffee cherries are estimated to be worth between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹2 lakh, based on current market rates.

Groom Injured After Falling During Mass Wedding in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

A 35-year-old groom sustained injuries after falling from the stage during a mass wedding event held on Sunday morning in the outskirts of Chitradurga city. The ceremony, which began at 10 AM, saw the union of 1,008 couples, organized as part of a large-scale matrimonial program.

According to witnesses, the groom, who was positioned on the decorated wedding stage, lost his balance and fell, hitting his head. Relatives and family members immediately rushed to his aid and provided first-aid assistance at the venue. Water was poured on his face to help him regain consciousness, and he was stabilized before further medical help could arrive.

During a mass wedding of 1,008 couples in Chitradurga, a groom fell from the stage and was injured

The bride, who was ready for the ceremony, was visibly shaken by the incident. Family members and event organizers worked quickly to calm the situation and ensure that the wedding continued safely for other couples.

Officials and attendees praised the prompt action of relatives in preventing a more serious injury. The injured groom was later shifted to a nearby hospital for a thorough medical check-up to ensure there were no lasting complications.

Mass wedding programs, such as this one, are often organized to support couples and reduce financial burdens, but incidents like these highlight the importance of safety measures, especially on elevated stages and platforms. Organizers have stated that safety protocols will be reviewed to prevent such accidents in the future.

The event continued with the participation of other couples, and authorities expressed relief that no other incidents occurred during the ceremony.

Severe Cold in Chelur Taluk Hits Shepherds and Sheep Hard

CHELUR

The residents and shepherds of Chelur taluk are facing one of the harshest winters in recent years. Over the past week, the taluk has been shrouded in thick fog throughout the day, bringing plummeting temperatures and making daily life extremely challenging. Sheep farmers in the region report that the prolonged cold has posed a serious threat to both their livelihood and the health of their flocks. With no sight of the sun for several consecutive days, the persistent fog has created a chilling environment, causing discomfort and health concerns for thousands of sheep. Farmers are struggling to keep the animals warm and healthy amid these conditions.

The extreme weather has impacted hundreds of families who depend on sheep farming as their primary source of income. Many shepherds have reported difficulties in grazing and feeding their flocks, as the frosty mornings and dense fog reduce visibility and complicate daily routines. The cold also increases the risk of respiratory and other health problems for the animals, potentially affecting productivity and income for the families.

Local authorities and agricultural experts have advised shepherds to take precautionary measures, including providing shelter, supplementary feed, and proper care to protect the sheep from the severe cold.

Leaders Pay Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Bagepalli

BAGEPALLI

On Saturday, leaders and members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the CPM office in Bagepalli taluk, commemorating the Mahaparinirvana day of the architect of the Indian Constitution. CPM State Secretary Board Member M.P. Munivenkatappa addressed the gathering and emphasized that even 78 years after India gained independence, the vision and aspirations of Dr. Ambedkar remain unfulfilled. He stated that widespread poverty, inequality, caste-based discrimination, sectarianism, and other social evils continue to plague the country.

A villager lost ₹50,000 after money was illegally transferred from their bank account

₹50,000 Transferred Illegally from Bank Account

RAMNAGAR

A villager from Bevoor in Mandya district became the victim of a financial scam when ₹50,000 was illegally transferred from their bank account without their knowledge. The incident has raised concerns over digital banking security among residents in the area.

The account holder noticed unusual activity in their bank account and immediately reported the matter to the bank authorities. Preliminary investigations revealed that the funds were transferred to a third party without authorization. The identity of the beneficiary is currently under verification by the Mandya police. Local authorities have registered a case of financial fraud and are actively investigating the matter.

Bank officials are cooperating with the police to trace the transaction and recover the lost money. Officials have also advised all account holders to monitor their accounts regularly and report any suspicious activity immediately. Transaction alerts and mobile notifications are considered effective tools to prevent such fraudulent transfers.

Residents of Bevoor and surrounding villages have expressed concern over the rise of digital banking frauds. Many villagers, who are relatively new to online banking, have been advised to exercise caution while sharing account information or responding to phone calls and messages requesting bank credentials.

DEVELOPMENT WORK PROGRESSES

Development Work Worth ₹1,041 Cr Completed in Kolar, MLA Kottur Manjunath Asserts

KOLAR

Development work worth ₹1,041 crore has been completed in the Kolar constituency, MLA Kottur Manjunath stated while addressing a gathering at Dodda Hasala Gram Panchayat on Saturday. Speaking in the presence of JDS leaders, he challenged critics to examine the documents if they had any doubts regarding the progress.

Manjunath inaugurated several development projects at the Gram Panchayat premises, emphasizing that the state government has consistently supported the region with substantial grants. He expressed his disappointment over false claims circulating that the constituency had not received adequate funding. "Spreading misinformation about the allocation of grants is unfair and misleading. People are encouraged to verify the documents themselves," he said.

Highlighting future plans, the MLA announced that a grant of ₹60 lakh will be allocated in the next state budget for the improvement of roads in Dodda Hasala and Chikka Hasala villages. He also revealed that Dodda Hasala Gram Panchayat is slated to be included within the Kolar city limits in the coming days, a move expected to accelerate development and urban planning initiatives.

Manjunath further outlined major infrastructure projects, including the conversion of the Bangarpet Road passing through the panchayat into a quadrilateral road and the initiation of a ring road project to improve traffic flow and connectivity. He assured residents that these projects would enhance accessibility and bring economic growth to the region.

Local leaders and citizens in attendance welcomed the initiatives, highlighting that these projects could significantly improve the quality of life and development standards in the constituency. The MLA reiterated his commitment to ensuring that resources are utilized transparently and that development reaches every village in the area.

The event underscored the state government's focus on infrastructure and rural development, reflecting ongoing efforts to boost connectivity, urban planning, and overall public welfare in Kolar constituency.

NAME CHANGE

I, **IRFAN**, S/o, Jamal, Resident of No, 916, E W S, A B C D Park Apthamitra 2nd Stage Rajiv Nagar Mysuru Dist, 570019, have changed my name to **IRFAN SHEIKH**, vide affidavit dated: 07.12.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ABDUL AZEEZ AHMED**, S/o, Nazeer Ahmed, Resident of No, 224, Haleem Nagar Bannimantap Mysuru Dist, 570015, have changed my name to **ABDUL AZEEZ**, vide affidavit dated: 07.12.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

Document Lost

I, Harshith Gowda .K.V. S/o Venkataraju and Asha, aged about 18 years, residing at: Kempanahalli Village, Mayaganahalli Post, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore South District, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:
I am residing in the above said address. I declare that during 2022-23 I have studied my 10th Standard at Sharath Memorial School, Kempegowda Circle, Ramanagara Town, Bangalore South District. I further declare that I have passed the 10th examination under ICSE and obtained the marks card bearing No. 7932459 from the concerned authority. The said document misplaced 18-10-2025 while travelling in bus from Ramanagara to Bidadi. I have not used the said documents for any other illegal purpose. If I trace I will handover the same to the concerned authority. Or contact below Address.
Contact Adress:
Harshith Gowda.K.V.
S/o Venkataraju, Kempanahalli Village, Mayaganahalli Post, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore South District. Mobile No. 8792189535

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION PETITION NO. 5638 OF 2024

Petition for probate of the Last Will and Testament of **Nellie Lewis**, wife of **Denis Raphael Lewis** (Deceased) of Mumbai, Indian Christian, widow retired by profession who at the time of her death resided at Flat No. 30, Vaishali Apartments Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., R. B. Mehta Marg, Ghatkopar East, Mumbai 400 077.
...Deceased

1. Marie Therese Picardo, Aged 68 Yrs. British Citizen, Housewife/ Retired by profession Presently residing at 15, Woodridge way, Northwood. HA6 2BE, United Kingdom Phone No. +44 01923 827708 Email ID - marie@rpicardo.com
2. Ronald Picardo, Aged - 76 Yrs., British Citizen, Retired by profession Presently residing at 15, Woodridge Way, Northwood, HA6 2BE, United Kingdom, Phone No. +44 01923 827708 Email ID- marie@rpicardo.com Both being Executors named in the Will
...Petitioners

To,
(1) Anita Picardo
(2) Sabitha Picardo
(3) Anjali Picardo
(4) Gita Picardo
(5) Sonia Picardo
(6) Decima Furtado
(7) Diana Furtado
(8) Daphne Furtado
(9) Ralph Furtado
(10) Tony Furtado
All the Legal heirs residing at Near St. Peters Church, Post Bakur, Taluka Udipi, Karnataka.

If you claim to have any interest in the estate of the deceased, you are hereby cited to come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.

In case, you intend to oppose the grant of Probate, you should file in the Office of the Prothonotary and Senior Master a caveat within 14 days from the service of this citation upon you.

You are hereby informed that the free legal services from the State of Legal Services Authorities, High Court Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluka Legal Services Committees as per eligibility criteria are available to you and in case, you are eligible and desire to avail the free legal services, you may contact any of the above Legal Services Authorities/Committees.

WITNESS: MR. SHREE CHANDRASHEKHAR
Chief Justice at Bombay aforesaid, this 24th day of November, 2025
Sd/-
For Prothonotary and Senior Master
SEAL **Sd/-**
SEALER
the 26 day of November. 2025
Advocate for Petitioners

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Venkatesh C, Ramya C, Shivakumar R, /NLAP00340009857/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 3/1, Pl.D. No. 150800303300320181, Situated At Channalinganahalli Grama, Kannuru Gramapanchayat, Hannur Block, Chamarajanagara (D), Karnataka - 571443. Admeasuring: 69.86 Sq Mts. East-Property of Guruswamy & Vrushabendraswamy, West- House of Puttegowda., South-Property of Guruswamy & Vrushabendraswamy, North-Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.520593/-
2	Mahesh M, Pavithra S, Hombalamma G, /NHL00340020561/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 131, Pl.D.No.152200102420700308, Situated At Hegganuru Grama, Hegganuru Gramapanchayat, Heggadadevanakote Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka - 571121. Admeasuring: 222.97 Sq Mts. East-Site of Nagaiah, West Site of Kullaiah, South-Site of Gopalaiah, North-Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.492368/-
3	Lingaraju Bl, Malashree S, Rudramma K, Lakshamaiah B, /NHL00930031941/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Katha No.131/1.124/1 And E-Katha No.152500701500100175 Measuring East To West: 7.9248 Meters And North To South: 10.6680 Meters, Situated At Bhoovanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka - 572137. East-House of Arasikere Rangappa, West-House of Neelamma W/O Shivanna, South Road, North-Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.495853/-
4	Fakkiresh Gutteppa Harijan, Gutteppa Fakkirappa Metri, Mayavva Guttepp Netri, Ningappa Honnappa Sottappanavar, /NHL00260015812/ Hubli	All That Part & Parcel of Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.8/A, Property No.151700201000200019, Measuring Total Measuring 62.47Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 44.20Sq Mtr Situated At Balambid Village, Tq: Hanagal & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka - 581101. East-Property of Basavaraj S/O Yallappa Doddamani, West-Property of Basavaraj S/O Yallappa Harijan, South Property of Laxmavva Harijan, North-Panchayat Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.491990/-
5	Shamshad Begum, Mubarak M, /NHL00510025115/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 352, E-Property No. 152400303500100991, Measuring Total 92.90 Sq. Meter, Including 42.92 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Yadehalli Village, Yadehalli Village Panchayath, Sagara Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577412. East-Vacant Property Survey No. 133, West-Road, South-Vacant Property Survey No. 133, North-Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.477834/-
6	Lalitha C, Rama Krishnegowda NH, /NHL00910022381/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 151600602800300151, Gram Panchayath Property No. 21, In Survey No. 12/2, Situated At Kakkehalli Village, Salagame Gram Panchayath, Hassan Taluk And Hassan District, Karnataka - 573219 Totally Measuring 204.85 Square Meters. East-House Property of Sri. Kumaraswamy, West-House Property of Sri. Anantha., South-Site Property of Sri. Puttaswamy., North-Government Road.	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.475298/-
7	Tan Veer Ahamad N, Jabin Taj T, Akhila Begam N, /NHL00900021553/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Sosale Gramapanchayathi Property No. 702/146/B And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 152200701705520397 Situated At Sosale Village, T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District, Karnataka - 571120 Measuring East To West: 15.24 Meters And North To South: 7.62 Meters. East-Private Vacant Site, West-T. Narasipura Main Road, South-House And Site of Akila Begum, North-House of Heena Begum Wife of Humayun	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.484085/-
8	Maruti Ramappa Madivalar, Ramappa Ningappa Madivalar, Ratnavva Ramappa Madivalar, Nagaraj Madivalappa Madivalar, /NHL00260020333/ Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.219A/1, Property No.151700502100520390 Total Measuring 62.13Sq Mtr And Situated At Kamadod Village, Tq: Ranebennur & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka - 581145. East-Common Pathway, West-Property of Tirakappa Ammanavar, South-Property of Yallappa Ningappa Madiwalar, North-Property of Halappa Madiwalar	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.487301/-
9	Sujatha S, Srinivasa Nayka, Sharadha Bayi, Dakya Naik, /MHL00480013090/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No 101, E Swathu No 151200601200320022, Measuring 08 X 14.70 Mts I.e 22.76 Sq Mts, Situated At Gurusiddapura Village, Gurusiddapura Gram Panchayath, Jagalur Taluk, Davangere Dist, Karnataka - 577513. East-House of Somlanaik, West-Vacant Property, South-Kana, North-Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.467704/-
10	Mallamma H, Hanumanthappa S, Pushpa H, /MHL00510013699/ Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Khata No.152400402600100226, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.191 Measuring In Total 306.58 Sq Meter Including Measuring 62.71 Sq Meter House Property Situated At Guddadathumminakatte, Guddadathumminakatte Gram Panchayat. Shikaripura Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577427. East-Property of Somakka W/O Beerappa, West- Property of Chowdappa S/O Basappa, South-Gramthana, North-Gram Panchayat Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.463161/-
11	Abdul Rasheed A, Shakeela Banu R, Abdul Junyd R, Syed Habeebulla, /NHL00510004061/ Shimoga	All Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rpad No.151200503200220105 As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.240/1 Measuring In Total 71.54 Sq. Meter House Property Situated At Sasuvehalli Village, Sasuvehalli Gram Panchayat Office, Honnali Taluk, Davanagere District, Karnataka - 577224. East-Property Belongs To Hanumanthadevara Temple Road, West-House Belongs To Ameer Khan, South- House Belong To Ghouse Khan, North-Gram Panchayat Road	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.473225/-
12	Shashikala, Abhishek Naik C, /MLAP01300034911/ Chitradurga	Property Khata Assessment No.406/378, E-Swathu No.26-516-270, Measuring E-W: 6.096012Mtr, N-S : 9.144018 Mtr, Total: 55.7420Sq Mtr, Build Up Area: 42.642477 Sq Mtrs. Situated At Ward No.11, Imam Badavane, Jagaluru Town, Jagaluru Tq, Davangere Dist, Karnataka - 577528. East-House of Hanumanthappa, West-House of Yallappa, South-Road, North-Conservancy	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.462873/-
13	Vasantha, Raghuswamy M, Muddappa K, /MLAP00900036329/ Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece. And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 7/7, Pl.D No. 152200101100600111, Situated At Machanayakanahalli Grama, Naganahalli Gramapanchayat, H.D. Kote Block, Mysore, Karnataka - 571114 Admeasuring 292.64 Sq Mts.. East-Road, West House of George., South- House of Shivamallu, North-House of Shivamallappa	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.458120/-
14	Megha K S, Prasanna Kumara K S, /MHL00910015446/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 151600302300100174, Gram Panchayath Khatha No. 133B, Situated At Koratikere Village, Koratikere Gram Panchayath, Arakalgud Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka - 573142 Totally Measuring 143.81 Square Meters. East-House Property of Sri. Ravi, West-Road, South-Panchayath Road, North-House Property of Sri. Annaiah	11-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.451159/-
15	Gopala, Gopala, M Shilpa, Gangamma, /NLAP00930046905/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.2248/2069/50 And E-Khatha No.152500603300102220 Measuring East To West: 9.144 Mtrs And North To South 6.096 Mtrs Is Situated At Y. N. Hosakote Village, Y. N. Hosakote Hobli, Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur District P.o Y N Hoskote, Tumkur, Karnataka, Pin: 572141. East-Road, West-House of Pathana, South-House of Malikarjuna, North-House of Krishnappa	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.802820/-
16	Sharifabi Bhashasaba Firvale, Sharifabi Bhashasaba Firval, Bashasab Hussainsab Peerwale, Bashirsab Mohammadsab Sayed, /MHL00260042811/ Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.1004, Property No.152701100300101282, Measuring East To West: 27Mtr And North To South: 11.26Mtr, Total Measuring 304.02Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 96Sq Mtr Situated At Kiravatti Village, Tq: Yallapur & Dist: Uttar Kannada, P.O. Kirwatti, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka, Pin: 581412. East-Property of Kutubsab Hajaratsab Firvale, West-Property of Mariyambi Mabusab Firvale, South-Road, North-Property of Venkadesh	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.745951/-
17	Manjapa H, Manjamma H, Kumar H, Hnumanthappa H, /NHL00510017019/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 35/1, E-Property No. 152400400300220008, Measuring East-West 3.505 Meter X North-South 45.1104 Meter, Total 158.12 Sq.meter Sq. Meter, Situated At Saklapura Village, Baganakatte Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka Pin: 577427 Po Baganakatte. East-Property of Hosuruamma W/O Parsappa, West-Property of Gangamma W/O Kenchappa, South-Property of Gangamma W/O Kenchappa, North-Property of Gangamma W/O Kenchappa	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.693380/-
18	Rajanna, Sumathi, Jyothi, /NHL00900042611/ Vivekananda Circle	Property No. 12/50 Unique No. 150800300800121241, Admeasuring 55.74 Sq.mts of 54.29 Sq.mts of Building, Madhuvanahalli Village & Madhuvanahalli Grama Panchayat, Main Road, Kollegal, P.O. Madhuvinahalli, Chamrajnagara, Karnataka, Pin: 571440. East-House of Kalashetty, West-House of Masanashetty, South-Road, North-House of Kumara	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.534229/-
19	Prasanna Chari C, Lavanya B P, Ajith Kumar A R, /NHL00910035727/ Hassan	Survey No. 13/2A1, Unique No. 151600501000420028, Property No 120, Totally Measuring 87.79 Sq.mtrs And Constructed Plinth Area 87.79 Sq.mtrs, Ankanahally Village, Kunduru Grampanchayath, Channarayapattana (T) Hassan (D)-573111, Near School, Channarayapatna, P.O. Kunduru, Hassan, Karnataka, Pin: 573111. East-Road, West-Road, South-Own Property, North-Own Property	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.629656/-
20	Shivaputra Nagappa Hallalli, Nagaveena Shivaputra Hallalli, Manjappa Hanumantappa Hosapeti, /NHL00260026259/ Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.869/B, Property No.151700302600101837, Total Measuring 123.00Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 123.00Sq Mtr, Situated At Havanur Village, Tq & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka- 581108. East-Property of Basavantappa Fakkirappa Kanavalli, West-Property of Yallavva Hanumantappa Butadannanavar, South-Govt. Road, North-Property of Uma Mounesh Hallalli	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.919555/-
21	Shashi Kumar S, Nagaratna M M, Ashok M, /NHL00510021239/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Khatha/Property No. 432, E-Property No. 151200500300620040, Total 81.75 Sq., Including 81.75 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Thimalapura Village, Thimalapura Village Panchayath, Honnali Taluk, Davangere District, Karnataka-577219. East-Property of Nagappa And Bylu Place, West-Property of Erappa And Bylu Place, South-Property of Erappa And Bylu Place, North-Village Panchayath Road	12-10-2025	14-10-2025 & Rs.1011799/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.
Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.
Date: 8th December 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

QUICK READ

Minor Fire Near Temple Quickly Put Out

PATHANAMTHITTA

A minor fire broke out at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple on Sunday morning, causing brief concern among pilgrims, but it was quickly brought under control. The fire was noticed around 8.20 am on a banyan tree near the holy aazhi inside the temple complex. Officials said a short circuit in decorative LED lights likely sparked the blaze. Fire and rescue teams acted swiftly to douse the flames. Entry through the 18 holy steps was briefly stopped as a precaution. No injuries or damage were reported, and temple activities continued as usual.

Cyber Scam Syndicate With Chinese Links Busted

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have busted a multi-state cybercrime syndicate with suspected Chinese links that cheated a 61-year-old man of over Rs 33 lakh through a fake online investment scheme. Police traced the money trail to a shell private company. One accused, Lakshay, was arrested earlier, while key accused Shubham was caught in Tilak Nagar after weeks of raids. Police recovered electronic devices, chequebooks and debit cards. Investigators said cryptocurrency transactions were also used for laundering funds. Further probe is underway.

Jagan to Submit One Crore Signatures

AMARAVATI

YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will meet Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer on December 17 to submit one crore signatures opposing the privatisation of newly established government medical colleges, the party said. Jagan alleged that the NDA government is trying to hand over public medical colleges to private entities, which would weaken public healthcare services. The signatures were collected from all 26 districts of the state. The documents are being brought to Vijayawada in special vehicles, and party leaders will accompany him to Raj Bhavan for the submission.

Jaishankar Calls for Deeper India-Japan Strategic Ties

External Affairs Minister highlights stronger ties at India-Japan Forum

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took part in the opening session of the India-Japan Forum in New Delhi and stressed the need for deeper cooperation between the two countries in a changing global order. Sharing his views on X, he said the discussions focused on evolving global challenges and the importance of closer India-Japan partnership.

Organised by the Ananta Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, the India-Japan Forum brings together top leaders and experts from both nations to shape future bilateral and strategic cooperation.

The forum aims to strengthen partnership through dialogue, build trust, explore new opportunities and prepare a joint roadmap for future engagement. The closed-door meeting is attended by 70 to 80 invited participants and follows Chatham House rules for free and open discussion.

Earlier, during the forum's inaugural session held on December 6, Jaishankar spoke about expanding cooperation in key areas such as semiconductors, defence, economic ties and technology.

He underlined the need to build resilient supply chains, boost digital governance and strengthen the role of the Quad in the Indo-Pacific region.

He also spoke about the rise in Indian foreign travel, noting a steady increase in passport issuance and overseas tourism.

However, he said Japan has not yet fully benefited from this growing trend of Indian tourists.

Jaishankar further highlighted the strong potential for semiconductor collaboration between India and Japan, especially as both nations work closely with Taiwan. He described this partnership as strategically important and capable of reshaping future economic and geopolitical dynamics.

JAISHANKAR STRESSES INDIA-JAPAN COOPERATION

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday attended the opening session of the India-Japan Forum in New Delhi, where he spoke on the changing global order and the need for stronger cooperation between India and Japan. In a post on X, he said the discussions focused on deepening strategic ties. The forum, organised by the Ananta Centre along with the Ministry of External Affairs, aims to promote dialogue and long-term partnership. Recently, senior leaders from both countries have also held meetings to strengthen cooperation in areas such as environment, defence, innovation and talent exchange.

Rajnath Singh Inaugurates 125 BRO Projects

LEH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday dedicated 125 newly completed projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to the nation from Leh, describing them as a strong symbol of the government's focus on strengthening border infrastructure. Built at a cost of about Rs 5,000 crore, the projects are spread across Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, and seven states including Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Mizoram.

The projects include 28 roads, 93 bridges and four other key works. This marked the largest single-day and highest-value inauguration in the history of the BRO. Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta welcomed the defence minister on his arrival and joined him at the dedication ceremony.

Rajnath Singh said the bravery of Indian soldiers inspires the nation and these projects serve as a tribute to their service and sacrifice. He called border roads the lifelines of national security and said better connectivity directly improves operational readiness. He noted that modern road networks, real-time communication and satellite surveillance now allow troops to move faster and operate more effectively in forward areas. Praising the BRO for completing projects ahead of schedule and using modern technology, he linked its work to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He said stronger border connectivity also boosts local economies, improves disaster response and builds public faith in governance in remote areas.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated 125 major BRO projects to the nation from Leh, highlighting their role in boosting border security, military movement, local growth and all-weather connectivity in remote regions.

Singh highlighted the 920-metre Shyok Tunnel in Ladakh as a major engineering achievement that will ensure round-the-year access to difficult military terrain. The new projects, he said, will strengthen security, improve logistics, promote tourism, create jobs and increase overall economic activity in border regions.

Kashmiri Saffron Gift to Putin Brings Cheer

JAMMU

Residents of Jammu and Kashmir expressed happiness and pride after Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Kashmiri saffron to Russian President Vladimir Putin during his two-day visit to India for a bilateral summit. The gift was part of a carefully selected collection showcasing India's rich culture, craftsmanship and heritage, aimed at strengthening ties between the two nations. Along with Kashmiri saffron, the Prime Minister also presented Assam tea, Maharashtra handicrafts, a handcrafted marble chess set and a Russian edition of the Bhagavad Gita. Among these, the inclusion of Kashmiri saffron, also known as 'Zafran', has drawn special attention. Grown in the fields of Jammu and Kashmir, the saffron is famous worldwide for its deep colour, strong aroma, rich flavour and health benefits. Local residents said the Prime Minister's choice has brought global recognition to one of Kashmir's most valuable products. Burhan Din, a resident of Kashmir, said it was a moment of great pride for the people of the Valley. He said the Prime Minister could have chosen any expensive gift, but selecting saffron reflected his affection for Jammu and Kashmir and its identity. He also appealed to farmers to increase production as its demand may now rise worldwide. Social activist Syed Akhtar Hussain said saffron symbolises the richness of Kashmir and the Prime Minister has helped promote it on the global stage. He said greater promotion of saffron farming could generate more jobs and reduce unemployment in the region. Tourists visiting the Valley also showed interest in buying authentic Kashmiri saffron after hearing about the gift. They said the Prime Minister's gesture has increased curiosity among visitors and could boost local farmers and the tourism-linked economy.

Srinagar Police Attach Rs 1 Crore House

SRINAGAR

Police in Srinagar on Sunday attached a residential house worth about Rs 1 crore belonging to an alleged drug peddler under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, officials said. The action is part of an intensified crackdown on the drug trade in the Kashmir Valley. According to a police statement, the double-storeyed house is located in the Natipora area of Srinagar. The property is registered in the name of Javid Ahmad Ganie, son of Nazir Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Astan Mohalla, Natipora. He is a habitual drug peddler and is involved in FIR No. 23 of 2025 registered at Chanapora police station under various sections of the NDPS Act. During the investigation, police found that the house was built using money earned from illegal narcotics activities. Based on these findings, the competent authority ordered the attachment of the property under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act. The attachment was carried out in the presence of the Executive Magistrate First Class, Chanapora.

Amit Shah Opens New EWS Homes Under PMAY

GANDHINAGAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated more than 800 newly built houses for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in Ahmedabad. The project reflects the Centre's commitment to providing safe and permanent homes to the poor so they can live with dignity and security.

Sharing pictures of the event on social media, Amit Shah said that 861 modern houses were constructed in the Thaltej ward of Ahmedabad by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. He said these well-planned houses, equipped with all basic amenities, will give residents a strong and secure foundation for a better future.

The beneficiaries, mostly from poor and underprivileged backgrounds, expressed great happiness and relief at receiving their own homes. Many said moving into a permanent house was a dream they never thought would come true. One beneficiary, Nikhilesh Ben, said the new house has brought them respect in society and thanked the government for the support.

Another resident, Ranjeet, said his family has finally moved out of a slum and now enjoys a safe and clean living environment. He added that facilities like an Anganwadi centre, Ayushman Bhawan and a school for children are available nearby, making life more comfortable.

Shambhu Bhai, another beneficiary, said he earlier lived in unsafe conditions but now has a strong, well-equipped home. He praised the quality of construction and thanked the government for providing all necessary facilities.

Some families said they had waited nearly 25 years to own a house and were deeply grateful for finally receiving one. The inauguration brought visible joy and hope to hundreds of families who are now starting a new chapter of life with a secure roof over their heads.

Lakhs Join Massive Gita Recital

KOLKATA

Lakhs of devotees gathered at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on Sunday to take part in a grand collective recital of the Bhagavad Gita, organisers said. The huge congregation echoed with chants of Lord Krishna's name and the sound of conch shells as monks, dressed in saffron robes, recited verses from the holy scripture in one voice. Devotees from across West Bengal and neighbouring states joined the spiritual event.

The programme, named "Panch Lakkho Konthe Gita Path" (Gita chanting by five lakh voices), was organised by the Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad, a group of monks and spiritual leaders from different religious institutions. Several senior BJP leaders, including state president Sukanta Majumdar, Union minister Sukanta Majumdar, former MP Locket Chatterjee and MLA Agnimitra Paul, were present along with noted religious figures such as Swami Pradiptananda Maharaj, also known as Kartik Maharaj, and Dhirendra Shastri. West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose addressed the gathering, recited verses from the Gita and spoke about peace, harmony and non-violence. Swami Pradiptananda Maharaj said the turnout was completely spontaneous and not driven by any political party. He added that despite limited cooperation from some sections of the administration, more than five lakh people gathered out of devotion and concern for Sanatan Dharma.

Organisers said the aim of the event was to revive Bengal's spiritual traditions and promote social harmony through sacred teachings. Tight security, crowd control measures and emergency medical services were arranged.

Three large stages were set up at the venue, and security was strengthened across central Kolkata.

The massive gathering comes two years after a similar Gita chanting event held at the same venue in December 2023, which had also attracted large crowds and sparked political debate.

POWER TECH SHIFT

AI TO DRIVE CONSUMER-FOCUSED POWER SECTOR

NEW DELHI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) will play a major role in building a smart, consumer-friendly and self-optimising power distribution system in India, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal said on Sunday.

He was addressing a two-day national conference on the use of AI and ML in the power distribution sector.

The minister said technologies such as smart meter analytics, digital twins, predictive maintenance, power theft detection, appliance-level consumer insights, automated outage forecasting and generative AI-based decision tools can greatly improve both consumer services and operational efficiency.

These solutions, he said, can help reduce outages, protect honest consumers, cut losses for distribution companies (discoms) and lower power purchase costs, while strengthening infrastructure and public trust in the system.

Manohar Lal urged all discoms to work closely with technology providers and other stakeholders to move towards smart, reliable and consumer-focused distribution networks. He stressed the need to actively engage with consumers, remove misinformation about new technologies and seek public support for wider adoption of digital tools in the power sector.

During the event, the minister also launched STELLAR, a new tool developed by the Central Electricity Authority to help discoms plan long-term power supply and ensure load adequacy.

The India Smart Grid Forum released a handbook on AI, ML, AR/VR and robotics solutions, listing 174 practical use cases for electric utilities.

Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal highlighted the importance of capacity building, secure data sharing and system compatibility for nationwide scaling of innovation. The conference received 195 innovation proposals, of which 51 were shortlisted.

After final evaluation, winners were announced across discoms, service providers and technology firms, showcasing several data-driven solutions to improve grid performance and consumer experience.

QUICK READ

Khalifa bin Tahnoon Attends Cup Finale

Abu Dhabi

Under the patronage of Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Khalifa bin Tahnoon bin Mohammed Al Nahyan attended the grand finale of the 33rd UAE President Cup for Arabian Purebred Horses in Abu Dhabi. He presented the winner of the seventh race, the HH The President Cup (Group 1), the richest event of the night with a prize purse of AED 8 million. He said the cup reflects the leadership's commitment to preserving equestrian heritage and boosting Abu Dhabi's global standing in Arabian horse racing.

Tragic Bus Accident Claims 14 Lives

Algiers

At least 14 people were killed and 34 others injured after a passenger bus overturned on a national highway in southern Algeria. The Civil Protection Service said the accident took place on the road linking Bechar and Tindouf when the vehicle flipped onto its roof. Emergency teams rushed to the scene and provided first aid to the injured before transporting those in critical condition to a nearby hospital. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the crash.

Mild Quake Shakes Western Nepal

Kathmandu

A mild earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale struck western Nepal's Sudurpashchim province on Sunday morning, officials said. The National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre reported that the tremor occurred at 8:28 am, with the epicentre located in the Ghusa area of Darchula district. Shaking was felt in neighbouring districts, causing brief concern among residents. However, there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Authorities continue to monitor the situation.

South Korea Forms Teams for Key US Talks

South Korea has begun new preparations for important security talks with the United States

SEOUL

South Korea's presidential office said on Sunday that it has set up special task force teams to support working-level talks with the United States on major defence and nuclear issues. The talks will focus on nuclear-powered submarines, uranium enrichment rights and South Korea's share of defence costs.

Deputy National Security Adviser Kim Hyun-jong said the Office of National Security is preparing a clear road map for follow-up steps based on agreements reached during recent summit meetings between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump. He told reporters that working-level discussions started earlier this month and practical results are expected in the first half

of next year.

Kim said that relevant government ministries will lead the talks, while the presidential task forces will offer support and coordination. The new move comes as both Seoul and Washington aim to modernise their alliance. They want South Korea to take on a bigger role in its own defence and to strengthen joint responses to regional security threats, including challenges linked to China.

After his meeting with Lee in Gyeongju during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, President Trump said he had approved South Korea's plan to build nuclear-powered submarines. This decision will require further talks on shipyard facilities and nuclear fuel supply.

The two countries are also discussing expanded rights for South Korea to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel, which are currently limited under a bilateral agreement. Earlier this week, Lee said Trump suggested a 5:5 partnership plan to help South Korea achieve these goals at home.

South Korea has also pledged to raise its defence spending to 3.5 per cent of its gross domestic product, a promise confirmed in a joint fact sheet issued last month.

US Top Diplomat to Visit Delhi, Bengaluru

WASHINGTON DC

United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker will visit New Delhi and Bengaluru from December 7 to 11, the US Embassy said in a statement. The visit aims to strengthen the strategic partnership between India and the United States. It will also focus on boosting economic and commercial ties, increasing American exports, and encouraging cooperation in new areas such as artificial intelligence and space exploration.

While in New Delhi, Under Secretary Hooker will meet senior Indian officials to discuss regional security, economic cooperation, and shared goals in the Indo-Pacific region. She will also take part in Foreign Office Consultations with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. These talks are expected to

A senior US diplomat will visit New Delhi and Bengaluru from December 7 to 11 to boost strategic, economic and technology ties with India and discuss security and counter-terrorism cooperation

review key areas of bilateral cooperation and future plans.

In Bengaluru, Hooker will visit the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). She will also meet leaders from India's growing space, energy and technology sectors. The meetings will focus on promoting innovation in joint research projects and exploring new opportunities for expanding cooperation between the two countries.

The visit is seen as another important step in advancing US President Donald Trump's priorities of deepening ties with India and supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

On December 6, India and the United States strongly denounced all forms of terrorism, including cross-border terror, and pledged closer global cooperation through bodies like the UN, Quad and FATF. During recent counter-terror talks, both sides sought tougher sanctions on groups such as ISIS, al-Qa'ida, LeT and JeM, and condemned the Pahalgam and Red Fort attacks, calling for strict action against those responsible.

Cyclone Ditwah Kills 627, Hundreds Still Missing

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka continues to struggle under the devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwah, with the death toll rising to 627 and 190 people still reported missing, according to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC). The cyclone has brought heavy rain, flash floods, and landslides across the island, causing rivers to overflow, submerging towns, and damaging critical infrastructure. All 25 districts have been affected, impacting over 2.17 million people from more than 611,000 families.

The Ministry of Housing, Construction, and Water Supply said damage assessments to homes will begin tomorrow, while a special committee under the Presidential Secretariat will identify households eligible for government support. India has been actively assisting under Operation Sagar Bandhu, with a 73-member medical team from the Indian Army providing relief since December 2. A fully functional field hospital in Mahiyanganaya, operational since December 5, offers emergency care, outpatient services, and minor surgeries.

The Indian Army reported treating over 1,250 people and performing major emergency surgeries. Additionally, three Bailey Bridges have been deployed to restore connectivity and support relief operations. These coordinated efforts highlight ongoing humanitarian aid and international cooperation as Sri Lanka works to recover from one of the most destructive cyclones in recent history.

Indian Army Treats Over 1,250 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO

As India's relief efforts continue in Sri Lanka, the Indian Army has treated over 1,250 people at its field hospital, conducted major emergency surgeries, and deployed three Bailey Bridges to support recovery after cyclone Ditwah. The bridges aim to restore critical connectivity and accelerate relief operations in the hardest-hit areas.

In a post on X, the Army's ADGPI said, "The Indian Army's Field Hospital has treated over 1,250 people so far, including five major emergency surgeries. Three Bailey Bridges have been inducted into Sri Lanka. Locations for their construction have been identified in coordination with local authorities to support relief and connectivity restoration."

Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, visited the field hospital and met the medical team, thanking India for its rapid response and crucial medical support to affected communities.

Earlier, Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal shared that the 4th C-17 aircraft, carrying about 55 tonnes of Bailey Bridge units, a JCB, and 13 engineer personnel, arrived in Colombo to bolster ongoing relief operations.

The High Commission of India in Colombo confirmed that the field hospital was set up to provide urgent, life-saving medical assistance to residents affected by the cyclone.

These efforts are part of Operation Sagar Bandhu, India's sustained humanitarian assistance program in Sri Lanka, which includes coordinated rescue, medical, and relief operations to help communities recover from the widespread damage caused by the cyclone.

The Indian Army's swift deployment of medical teams, engineering units, and equipment highlights the close cooperation between India and Sri Lanka in responding to natural disasters and ensuring timely support to affected populations.

President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Kim Ho-cheol for top audit post

South Korean President Nominates Human Rights Lawyer

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has nominated human rights lawyer Kim Ho-cheol as the new chief of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI), the presidential office said on Sunday. Kim is currently an attorney at the law firm KlassHankyul and has previously served as chairman of the Korean National Police Commission and co-representative of the Korea Federation for Environmental Movements, a major civic group.

He has also been president of Lawyers for a Democratic Society, a liberal lawyers' association, and was part of a committee investigating suspicious deaths of soldiers.

Lee's office described Kim as "a leading human rights lawyer who has played a central role in safeguarding public interest and social values."

Presidential secretary Lee Kyu-yeon said Kim is expected to restore the BAI's independence, political neutrality, and public trust. Kim's nomination must be approved by the parliament, though no confirmation hearing date has been set.

The BAI has been at the center of political controversies in recent years, with critics accusing past administrations of using the institution for politically motivated audits. Former BAI chief Choe Jae-hae retired last month after a four-year term, surviving an impeachment motion in the process. Last week, the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials raided the BAI over a disputed audit conducted during former President Yoon Suk Yeol's administration.

Earlier in November, President Lee also urged the National Intelligence Service to focus on its original duties and avoid political misuse, highlighting his commitment to restore integrity and public trust in key government institutions.

Japan-China Tensions Rise After Radar Lock Incident

TOKYO

Tensions between Japan and China rose over the weekend after Japan's Defence Ministry reported that Chinese fighter jets locked fire-control radar on Japanese military aircraft over international waters southeast of Okinawa. A Chinese J-15 launched from the carrier Liaoning allegedly targeted Japanese F-15s multiple times. Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi condemned the actions as dangerous and lodged a strong protest, insisting they must not be repeated. A ministry official said the radar locks appeared unnecessary if China intended only to track aircraft.

The encounters followed carrier-based training China conducted on December 6 in the Pacific, after the Liaoning and three accompanying destroyers passed waters off Okinawa and operated near Kuba Island before training west of Okidaito Island. China rejected Japan's protest, calling the flights routine and accusing Japanese jets of interference. With Okinawa close to Taiwan, regional unease continues as Japan monitors China's growing military activity.

UAE Leads Global Media Innovation at BRIDGE Summit

ABU DHABI

The BRIDGE Summit begins tomorrow in Abu Dhabi, UAE, focusing on driving innovation and developing tools to advance content creation worldwide. The summit is part of the BRIDGE Alliance, an international organisation dedicated to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and impact across media, content, and entertainment sectors. Headquartered in the UAE, the Alliance unites a global board of former heads of state, policymakers, CEOs, and industry leaders from media, technology, finance, and creative industries. Its mission is to build a collaborative, resilient, and ethically grounded content ecosystem that delivers positive global impact and shapes the future of media and entertainment.

The summit aligns with the UAE's efforts to modernise its media sector, enhance competitiveness, and strengthen global appeal. This year, the government introduced the Advertiser Permit for individuals publishing promotional content on social media, establishing a flexible framework to keep pace with the rapidly evolving media landscape. The initiative seeks to improve content quality, attract investment, support skilled professionals and creative talent, and safeguard the rights of both society and content creators through transparency and professionalism.

Additionally, the Cabinet issued regulations on Administrative Violations and Penalties to foster a responsible media environment in line with national legislation. The UAE Media Council reported steady sector growth in the first half of 2025, issuing over 2,500 licences, approving 611 films with more than six million ticket sales, and distributing 131 electronic games. In publishing, the Council processed over 514,000 book titles, issued 35,000 distribution permits, and blocked 32 titles conflicting with national values.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

2		3		6		5		8
	7		4		1	3		2
1		9	3		2		6	
4		2		3		8		9
	6		2		8		4	3
3		8	5		4	2		
6		5		7	3	4		1
		1		4		6		
7			1		6		8	5

9	7	5	1	4	3	2	6	8
3	4	8	6	2	5	9	7	1
2	1	6	9	7	8	5	4	3
4	9	3	7	5	1	8	2	6
5	2	1	8	6	9	4	3	7
8	6	7	4	3	2	1	9	5
1	3	4	5	9	7	6	8	2
7	8	9	2	1	6	3	5	4
6	5	2	3	8	4	7	1	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

DRONE STRIKE UPDATE

Russia Intercepts Eight Ukrainian Drones in Hours

MOSCOW

Russian air defences intercepted or destroyed eight Ukrainian drones over a four-hour period on Saturday evening, the Russian Defence Ministry reported. The drones included three each over the Kursk and Belgorod regions, and two over the Bryansk region, operating between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Moscow time (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. GMT) on December 6.

Earlier on the same day, the ministry reported shooting down 11 Ukrainian drones over the same three regions within five hours.

In addition to air defence operations, Russian forces reportedly killed around 1,450 Ukrainian fighters in the past 24 hours in areas of the special military operation. The Russian military also launched a major strike using Kinzhal hypersonic missiles and other long-range precision weapons targeting Ukrainian military-industrial facilities, energy infrastructure, and port installations supporting Ukraine's army.

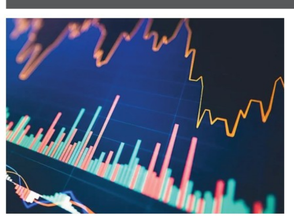
"In response to Ukraine's attacks on civilian targets, the Russian Armed Forces launched a massive strike with long-range air- and land-based precision weapons, including Kinzhal missiles and UAVs. All designated targets were hit," the Defence Ministry said.

The strikes reportedly damaged energy and transport facilities, warehouses, and temporary deployment points for Ukrainian army units and foreign mercenaries across 152 districts. Operational-tactical aviation, combat drones, missile forces, and artillery were involved in hitting military and logistic targets used by Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Russian Battlegroup Center units continued operations in Dimitrov in the Donetsk People's Republic, improving positions along the front line and destroying encircled Ukrainian forces.

These reports highlight continued escalation and intense military activity in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, with both sides engaging in air, missile, and ground operations.

QUICK READ



Global events, inflation, FII trends to influence markets next week

Mumbai

The Indian stock market is set for a key week ahead, with investors closely watching a mix of domestic and global factors that could shape market sentiment. Inflation data, foreign investor activity, crucial policy meetings in the US, and India's ongoing trade negotiations with major global partners are expected to play a central role in determining market direction. Additionally, fresh developments in India–Russia relations and movement in key economic indicators such as loan growth and forex reserves are likely to keep traders on alert.

Coupang revises notice over data breach, no further damage

Seoul

E-commerce giant Coupang issued a revised notice on Sunday to clearly describe a recent incident as a data breach following a government order while noting that the police have found no evidence of secondary damage. An incident involving the breach of customers' personal information has occurred, Coupang said in the new notice. No new leakage has taken place, and this notice is intended to provide guidance on precautions to prevent further damage, such as impersonation or phishing, related to the personal information leak that we have notified since November 29.

FPIs pull ₹11,820 cr in first week of Dec, total outflow reaches ₹1.55 trn

Mumbai

Foreign investors have pulled out ₹11,820 crore ($1.3 billion) from Indian equities in the first week of this month, primarily driven by the sharp depreciation of the rupee. This sharp withdrawal follows a net outflow of ₹3,765 crore in November, further pressuring markets. These outflows come after a brief pause in October, when FPIs invested Rs 14,610 crore, breaking a three-month streak of massive withdrawals -- Rs 23,885 crore in September, Rs 34,990 crore in August, and Rs 17,700 crore in July. According to NSDL data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew a net amount of Rs 11,820 crore from Indian equities in the first week of this month.

Bank of Maharashtra Cuts Retail Loan Rates Following RBI Repo Rate Reduction

Bank of Maharashtra lowers home, car, and education loan rates, aligning with RBI's recent repo rate cut.

MUMBAI

Public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) announced on Sunday a 25-basis-point reduction in interest rates across several retail loan products, including home, car, education, and other RLLR-linked loans. The revised rates took effect, just a day after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the repo rate to 5.25 per cent to support economic growth.

Under the new structure, BoM's home loans will now start at 7.10 per cent, while car loans will begin at 7.45 per cent. The bank described these rates as among the most competitive currently available in India's banking sector. In a statement, BoM emphasized that lowering retail loan rates reflects its commitment to providing affordable financing solutions to customers, particularly at a time when interest rates have remained relatively high. The reduction is expected to provide relief to borrowers and encourage increased borrowing for homes, vehicles, and education.

The move follows the RBI's latest monetary policy announcement, where Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted that the Monetary Policy Committee had unanimously decided to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points from 5.5 per cent to 5.25 per cent. The RBI also announced measures to boost liquidity, including open market purchases of government securities worth Rs 1 lakh crore and a $5 billion dollar-rupee swap arrangement.

Governor Malhotra noted that India's robust economic growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter, combined with a sharp decline in inflation to 1.7 per cent, created favorable conditions a Goldilocks period allowing the central bank to cut rates without jeopardizing price stability. He further raised the GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to 7.3 per cent and reiterated that the RBI would continue with a neutral policy stance, balancing support for growth while keeping inflation under control.

5 top companies add over Rs 72,000 crore in market value last week

MUMBAI

The combined market valuation of five of India's 10 most valuable companies increased by Rs 72,284.74 crore last week, even as the overall market remained largely flat. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerged as the biggest gainers during the week.

Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Bajaj Finance recorded gains in their market capitalisation, while Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) saw a decline in their valuations. The broader market movement remained muted over the week. TCS added the highest value, rising by Rs 35,909.52 crore to take its total market capitalisation to Rs 11,71,862.37 crore.

Infosys also saw a strong jump, gaining Rs 23,404.55 crore and lifting its valuation to Rs 6,71,366.53 crore. Among other gainers, Bajaj Finance added Rs 6,720.28 crore, pushing its market value to Rs 6,52,396.39 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation increased by Rs 3,791.9 crore to reach Rs 12,01,832.74 crore. ICICI Bank saw a smaller rise of Rs 2,458.49 crore, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 9,95,184.46 crore. On the losing side, Reliance Industries witnessed the sharpest fall, with its valuation dropping by Rs 35,116.76 crore to Rs 20,85,218.71 crore.

LIC lost Rs 15,559.49 crore, taking its mcap to Rs 5,50,021.80 crore. State Bank of India's valuation fell by Rs 7,522.96 crore to Rs 8,96,662.19 crore, while HDFC Bank slipped Rs 5,724.03 crore to Rs 15,43,019.64 crore. Larsen & Toubro also saw a decline of Rs 4,185.39 crore, ending the week with a valuation of Rs 5,55,459.56 crore.

Parliamentary Panel May Summon Airline Officials Amid IndiGo Flight Disruptions

Thousands stranded as IndiGo cancels flights; panel seeks answers from airlines and aviation regulator on crisis.

NEW DELHI

A major disruption in air travel across India has prompted the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture to consider summoning top officials of private airlines and senior representatives of the aviation regulator. The committee, headed by JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha, aims to understand the reasons behind widespread flight cancellations and the measures being taken to prevent such incidents in the future.

Over the past six days, thousands of passengers were left stranded as IndiGo cancelled a significant number of flights. Even several Members of Parliament attending the Winter Session in Delhi faced delays, and many reported receiving complaints from citizens regarding sudden spikes in airfares amid the ongoing crisis.

On Sunday alone, IndiGo cancelled more than 220 flights at Delhi and Mumbai airports, marking the sixth consecutive day of large-scale disruptions. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has already issued notices to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and COO Porqueras, seeking explanations for the operational breakdown.

In response, IndiGo stated that the Board of InterGlobe Aviation, its parent company, has formed a Crisis Management Group to closely monitor the situation. The company emphasized that the group is meeting regularly and that the Board of Directors is taking all possible steps to support affected passengers.

A member of the Parliamentary panel expressed serious concern over the inconvenience faced by travelers and confirmed that senior executives from airlines, along with officials from the DGCA and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, are likely to be called for hearings. The committee intends to probe the causes of cancellations and evaluate strategies to ensure such disruptions do not recur.

The ongoing airline crisis highlights the challenges faced by the aviation sector, including operational bottlenecks and fare volatility, and underscores the need for stronger regulatory oversight to protect passengers.

India achieves a major financial inclusion milestone as Jan Dhan accounts collectively hold Rs 2.75 lakh crore.

Jan Dhan accounts cross ₹2.75 lakh crore, achieving inclusion milestone

NEW DELHI

India's financial inclusion drive has achieved a significant milestone, with Jan Dhan accounts across the country now holding a total balance of approximately Rs 2.75 lakh crore. This translates to an average balance of Rs 4,815 per account, according to M. Nagaraju, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services.

Delivering the 69th Foundation Day Lecture on India's Financial Inclusion Journey at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Nagaraju described the country's progress as nothing short of a miracle. He highlighted the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched in 2014, as a key driver in bringing over 57 crore people into the formal banking system.

Nagaraju emphasized that financial inclusion is now a core element of India's development model, particularly through Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). In the current financial year alone, Rs 3.67 lakh crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries, ensuring transparency and timely delivery of government support.

A majority of Jan Dhan accounts continue to serve people living outside major cities. About 78.2 per cent of these accounts are in rural or semi-urban areas, while women hold around 50 per cent, reflecting the government's focus on empowering rural households and improving financial access for women.

Nagaraju also noted that India's Financial Inclusion Index has steadily improved, reaching 67 as of March 2025. This rise indicates better access to banking services, wider usage of accounts, and increased financial literacy among citizens.

He added that the continued growth of Jan Dhan accounts is expected to strengthen financial resilience, promote inclusive economic development, and support government initiatives aimed at reaching underserved populations. The milestone underscores India's ongoing efforts to integrate every citizen into the formal financial system and boost equitable growth.

India's export policy sends positive signal to trading partners in Southeast Asia

NEW DELHI

The government's approval of a Rs 45,000 crore ($5 billion) export support package has sent a positive signal that India is ready to deepen its engagement with fast-growing markets, especially across Southeast Asia .By ensuring easier access to credit through CGSE (Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters), supported by guarantees and risk-reduction mechanisms, the government is enabling MSMEs to confidently pursue new market opportunities.

This is particularly promising for deeper engagement with Southeast Asian economies, where Indian MSMEs have strong potential to diversify exports. From speciality textiles to engineering components, processed foods and affordable fashion, the demand across ASEAN is expanding rapidly, the article states.

With improved financing and better global compliance support, Indian exporters are now better equipped to tap into these markets with consistency and scale.

The two flagship components of the package — the Rs 25,060 crore ($2.8 billion) Export Promotion Mission (EPM) and the Rs 20,000 crore ($2.2 billion) CGSE — together create a strong, forward-looking foundation for India's export expansion.

The Export Promotion Mission represents a structural transformation in India's export support framework. Instead of fragmented and scheme-based incentives, EPM introduces a unified, digitised and outcome-oriented architecture that can swiftly align with evolving global opportunities.

Its two integrated pillars — Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha — complement each other. One enhances access to affordable trade finance, while the other strengthens market readiness, branding and compliance capabilities. For India's exporters, this means smoother processes, stronger visibility and greater ability to compete in sophisticated global markets.

This modernisation of export support also signals India's readiness to grow into a central node in Southeast Asia's supply networks, a region where demand is rising, consumption patterns are diversifying, and new production hubs are emerging, the article points out.

Govt says no advisory issued to pause financing of new green energy projects

MUMBAI

The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on Sunday clarified that it has not issued any advisory directing financial institutions to stop lending to renewable energy power projects or equipment manufacturing facilities, as reported by some media outlets.

However, MNRE has shared information with the Department of Financial Services and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) such as PFC, REC, and IREDA, outlining the current domestic manufacturing capacities across solar PV production. This includes solar modules, upstream stages like solar cells, ingots-wafers, polysilicon, and ancillary equipment such as solar glass and aluminium frames.

The Ministry explained that this step aims to enable financial institutions to adopt a well-informed and calibrated approach when evaluating proposals for financing solar PV manufacturing facilities. It encourages expanding financing portfolios beyond module manufacturing to include upstream stages and ancillary equipment, rather than limiting support to modules alone.

The Ministry further emphasized the government's commitment to making India self-reliant in solar PV manufacturing and establishing the country as a key player in the global value chain. This is supported through initiatives such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules and measures to ensure a level playing field for Indian manufacturers.

NEW CORRIDOR BOOSTS TRADE

Raipur–Visakhapatnam Economic Corridor to Slash Travel Time, Boost Trade and Connectivity

VIZAG

The upcoming 6-lane greenfield Raipur–Visakhapatnam Economic Corridor is set to transform connectivity and trade between the two cities, reducing travel time from 12 hours to just 5 hours. The ambitious project, spearheaded by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, is expected to be completed by December 2026.

Spanning forests in Chhattisgarh, mineral-rich regions in Odisha, and the hills of Andhra Pradesh, the corridor is being constructed at a total cost of Rs 16,482 crore. The new route will shorten the distance from 597 km on the existing NH-26 to 465 km, saving 132 km and nearly seven hours of travel time. The reduction in travel duration is projected to generate significant fuel savings and lower transportation costs for both public and freight operators.

Officials highlighted that the corridor will provide faster logistics and seamless connectivity under the PM Gati Shakti initiative. Industries in Chhattisgarh and Odisha will benefit from direct access to Visakhapatnam Port and the Chennai-Kolkata National Highway, facilitating smoother exports, efficient supply chains, and enhanced trade. The improved transport infrastructure is expected to strengthen industrial competitiveness and boost overall logistics efficiency across the region.

Beyond trade and industry, the corridor is also expected to stimulate tourism and economic growth. The project is anticipated to generate employment opportunities, attract real estate development, and foster regional economic activity along its route. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways emphasized that the corridor will act as a catalyst for both local and inter-state development, connecting remote areas to major urban and industrial centers.

By drastically cutting travel time and improving connectivity, the Raipur–Visakhapatnam Economic Corridor promises to be a transformative infrastructure project, providing long-term benefits for trade, tourism, and regional development in central and eastern India.

Final Shoot Begins for Meghna Gulzar's Daayra

Acclaimed filmmaker Meghna Gulzar has entered the final phase of shooting for her upcoming film Daayra, starring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Known for powerful films like Talvar, Raazi and Sam Bahadur, Gulzar shared the update with fans through social media, marking an important milestone for the project.

Taking to Instagram, the director posted a picture of a car loaded with travel bags, hinting at the team's readiness for the last leg of the shoot. Her caption, Final Schedule. Here we go Team Daayra, added to the excitement surrounding the film. Earlier in September, both Kareena and Prithviraj had shared behind-the-scenes moments from the first day of filming. Kareena posted photos from the sets, writing about beginning her 68th film with Meghna Gulzar and Prithviraj, while seeking blessings and love from fans. She also gave a glimpse of the team's preparations, including a puja ceremony, look tests, script readings, and detailed scene discussions.

A special moment from the early schedule included veteran lyricist Gulzar visiting the sets and interacting with the crew. Prithviraj, too, expressed his enthusiasm, calling Daayra a new and exciting journey that challenges him as an actor.

Announced earlier this year, Daayra marks Kareena's first collaboration with Meghna Gulzar. Both lead actors had shared heartfelt posts about the story and the team. According to the National Award-winning director, the film will explore themes that push audiences to reflect on society and its institutions.

PROMISED SKY WINS TOP HONOUR AT MARRAKECH

Erige Sehiri's Promised Sky claimed the top prize at this year's Marrakech International Film Festival, marking a major achievement for both the filmmaker and the growing global stature of the festival. The win capped a strong edition that drew record crowds and strengthened Marrakech's position on the international awards calendar.

Directed by Tunisian filmmaker Erige Sehiri, the film follows four generations of Ivorian immigrant women as they navigate family ties, identity, and survival amid deep-rooted social and economic divides. The story focuses on African migrant women seeking dignity and belonging within their own continent rather than in Europe. Speaking after the win, Sehiri said she was frustrated by the way migrants are often denied dignity, despite all sharing the same continent and identity as Africans.

SHAH RUKH

Jokes About Bond, Credits Kajol

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan recently addressed speculation about him becoming the next James Bond, following Daniel Craig's farewell to the iconic role with No Time To Die. While fans across the world continue to debate who should take over as 007, Shah Rukh responded with his trademark wit, saying he lacks the accent and even the taste for Bond's famous shaken martini.

During his recent visit to London, where he unveiled a bronze statue with his Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge co-star Kajol, Shah Rukh was asked if he saw himself as the next James Bond after exploring action roles in recent films. He laughed off the idea, saying he had always wanted to do action films but ended up doing mostly romantic movies because Kajol played such a big role in his career. According to him, their on-screen pairing became so iconic that it naturally led to a long streak of love stories.

Kajol, seated beside him during the interaction, playfully reminded Shah Rukh that he had done many films beyond their collaborations. He agreed but added that the films he and Kajol did together are the ones people remember most. Reflecting on his late entry into the action genre, Shah Rukh said he enjoyed doing it and admired Sean Connery's portrayal of James Bond, though he stopped short of seeing himself in that role.

Daniel Craig's exit as Bond has left the role open, with names like Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Callum Turner being discussed, though no official announcement has been made.

The next Bond film is expected to be directed by Denis Villeneuve. On the work front, Shah Rukh was last seen in Dunki and recently won the National Award for Best Actor for Jawan. He will next appear in King, also featuring his daughter Suhana Khan, which is slated for a 2026 release.

The Girlfriend Debuts on OTT After Theatrical Run

Rashmika Mandanna's much-talked-about romantic drama The Girlfriend has now made its digital debut on Netflix, following a successful run in theatres. As the film began streaming online from December 5, the actress reached out to her fans with a heartfelt note, thanking them for the love they showered on the film during its theatrical release and encouraging them to continue their support on OTT. Taking to her Instagram stories, Rashmika shared the official poster of the film and wrote that she hoped viewers would keep giving the film the same affection it received in cinemas. She urged those who had missed it on the big screen to watch it online and share their honest feedback with her. Netflix also promoted the release by introducing her character Bhooma Devi, described as an MA Literature student. Written and directed by Rahul Ravindran, The Girlfriend follows the story of Bhooma, a postgraduate student who falls for Vikram, played by Dheekshith Shetty. What begins as a charming romance soon turns into an emotionally manipulative and toxic relationship, highlighting the darker side of love. The film has been widely praised for its realistic portrayal of emotional abuse and the harsh realities many women silently endure.

Rashmika's performance has received special appreciation from both critics and audiences. The supporting cast includes Anu Emmanuel and Rao Ramesh in key roles. Released in multiple languages including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, the film earned Rs 18.67 crore in India and went on to collect Rs 29.07 crore worldwide.

Nazriya, Naslen Join Jithu Madhavan–Suriya Film

After weeks of speculation, it has now been officially confirmed that Nazriya Nazim and Naslen have joined the cast of the tentatively titled Suriya 47, directed by Aavesham fame Jithu Madhavan. The film was formally launched with a traditional pooja ceremony on Sunday, December 7, marking the beginning of its shooting journey.

Pictures from the ceremony were shared by Jithu Madhavan's wife, Shifina. The images featured key members of the team, including Suriya, Nazriya Fahadh, Naslen, director Jithu Madhavan, and music composer Sushin Shyam. A close-up of the clapboard also confirmed that Unni Palode will be making his debut as a full-fledged cinematographer with this project.

Suriya 47 brings together a successful combination once again, with Jithu Madhavan reuniting with Sushin Shyam after delivering hit albums in Romancham and the blockbuster Aavesham. Unni Palode, who has earlier assisted noted cinematographers like Shyju Khalid, Sameer Thahir, and Gireesh Gangadharan, now steps into the spotlight as the director of photography for the first time. Reports suggest that Suriya will be seen playing a police officer in the film.

On the work front, Suriya is awaiting the release of Karuppu, directed by RJ Balaji and co-starring Trisha. He is also currently shooting for Suriya 46 with Venky Atluri and Mamitha Baiju. Meanwhile, Nazriya was last seen in the mystery drama Sookshmadarshini, while Naslen's previous outing was the superhero hit Lokah, opposite Kalyani Priyadarshan.

Mohanlal to Play Prithviraj's Grandfather in KHALIFA

The makers of the upcoming Malayalam action thriller Khalifa – The Bloodline have officially confirmed that superstar Mohanlal will be portraying Prithviraj Sukumaran's grandfather in the film. The veteran actor will be seen as Mambarakkal Ahmed Ali, a towering figure whose legacy forms the backbone of the film's violent narrative. The big reveal was made through a powerful poster shared on social media by both Mohanlal and Prithviraj.

Though Mohanlal's look has not been revealed yet, the announcement poster hints at the dark and gritty world of the film. A blood-soaked hand holding a cigar, gold biscuits stacked beside a revolver, and the striking line, Before gold… there was blood, set the tone for an intense underworld saga. The makers also confirmed that Khalifa – The Bloodline will be told in two parts — Part 1: The Intro and Part 2: His Reign. The first installment, slated for an Onam 2026 release, will explore the bloody origins of Ahmed Ali and the rise of the Mambarakkal family empire.

Earlier, the teaser revealed police and customs officials tracking gold smuggling networks stretching across Kerala, Nepal, the Middle East and London. Indrans, as Hamsa, warns authorities about the dangerous legacy of Ahmed Ali and his grandson Aamir Ali, played by Prithviraj. The teaser also promised large-scale action set pieces.

Khalifa marks another high-profile collaboration between Mohanlal and Prithviraj after their recent film L2: Empuraan, raising expectations among fans for this ambitious two-part saga.

Bhagyashri Borse Opens Up About Faith Journey

Actress Bhagyashri Borse recently spoke about her evolving relationship with faith, recalling how her outlook toward God has changed over the years. The Andhra King Taluka star shared a heartfelt note along with a video from a recent temple visit, offering a glimpse into her personal beliefs and spiritual growth. In her Instagram post, Bhagyashri reflected on her childhood, revealing that she often fought with God whenever life did not go her way. She compared those moments to how a child questions a parent during difficult times. I remember as a little kid, any trouble in life, the first thing I'd do was fight with God, as if he's my father and question him all the time. Only to grow up and reach a point where I'm sure he knows the best for me, she wrote. According to the actress, faith now guides every step of her life, and she trusts in divine timing.

Fans responded warmly to her post, flooding the comments with love and appreciation. Many praised her simplicity and elegance, especially as she appeared in a saree at the temple. Admirers described her look as divine and admired her calm, graceful presence.

On the professional front, Bhagyashri has been receiving praise for her role as Kumari in the Tamil period drama Kaantha, set in 1950s Madras. She starred opposite Dulquer Salmaan and earned acclaim for her performance. She was also recently seen with Ram Pothineni in Andhra King Taluka, which has crossed Rs 20 crore at the box office within ten days of release.

Fit India Sundays on Cycle Marks 52nd Edition with Grand Celebration

Nationwide Fit India cycling event highlights Commonwealth Games 2030 milestone and honours private security guards as special fitness partners

VARANASI

The 52nd edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle unfolded with tremendous enthusiasm across more than 10,000 locations nationwide, with the flagship celebration held in the historic and culturally vibrant city of Varanasi. The morning's event not only promoted fitness but also highlighted India's major achievement of securing the hosting rights for the Commonwealth Games 2030, infusing the gathering with a strong sense of pride and purpose.

A unique feature of this edition was the spotlight on private security guards, who were recognised as the special focus group of the week. This

initiative continues the campaign's broader objective of engaging diverse professional communities across the country. In previous editions, the movement has successfully included lawyers, doctors, government employees, nutritionists, and other groups, thereby strengthening its identity as an inclusive and community-driven fitness revolution.

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, who has been leading this nationwide movement, expressed delight at the steady rise in participation as the campaign nears its first anniversary on December 21 in Puducherry. In just one year, the Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative is being organised at more than 10,000 locations, connecting over 1 lakh people every week. From athletes and artists to actors and citizens, everyone has joined this movement, he said.

Speaking at the flagship event hosted at the prestigious Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Mandaviya added, Today's mega event is also a celebration of the proud milestone that Bharat is set to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games. Revered personalities from music and culture have joined us for the first time in Varanasi. Private security guards, who work tirelessly to keep society safe, are our special partners today, joining hands with athletes contributing to India's fast-growing sports culture.

Neser's Five-Wicket Haul Propels Australia to Eight-Wicket Win

BRISBANE

Australia clinched a commanding second Test victory as Michael Neser's maiden five-wicket haul dismantled England's resistance.

Australia tightened their grip on the Ashes with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over England in the second Test at the Gabba on Sunday, powered by Michael Neser's stunning maiden five-wicket haul. The hosts now lead the five-match series 2-0, with momentum firmly on their side ahead of the third Test in Adelaide on December 17.

England entered day four at 143/6 and offered a brief fightback through a determined 96-run seventh-wicket stand between captain Ben Stokes and Will Jacks. Stokes struck a gritty fifty, while Jacks contributed a valuable 41 as the pair frustrated the Australian attack. But once the partnership was broken, England's innings unravelled rapidly.

The collapse began when Steve Smith took a brilliant catch to dismiss Jacks, followed by wicketkeeper Alex Carey pulling off a sharp standing-up dismissal to send Stokes back. From there, the English lower order capitulated, losing their final four wickets for just 17 runs.

Neser, drafted into the XI ahead of veteran spinner Nathan Lyon, proved the masterstroke selection. Playing his first Test in nearly three years, the Queensland seamer thrived on home turf, returning a career-best 5-41 to dismantle England's hopes of setting a competitive target. England were eventually bowled out for 241, leaving Australia a modest chase of 65 runs.

In response, Australia wasted little time. Openers Travis Head and Jake Weatherald put on 37 runs for the first wicket to set a positive tone. England bowler Gus Atkinson provided a brief spark by removing Head after the dinner break and dismissing Marnus Labuschagne soon after. However, Steve Smith ensured there were no further hiccups.

Smith smashed an unbeaten 23 off just nine deliveries, sealing the chase in emphatic fashion with a towering six over backward square leg. His burst of aggression snuffed out any faint hopes of an England comeback.

ACA chair Paul 'refreshed' by Cricket Australia's take on Khawaja's Comment

NEW DELHI

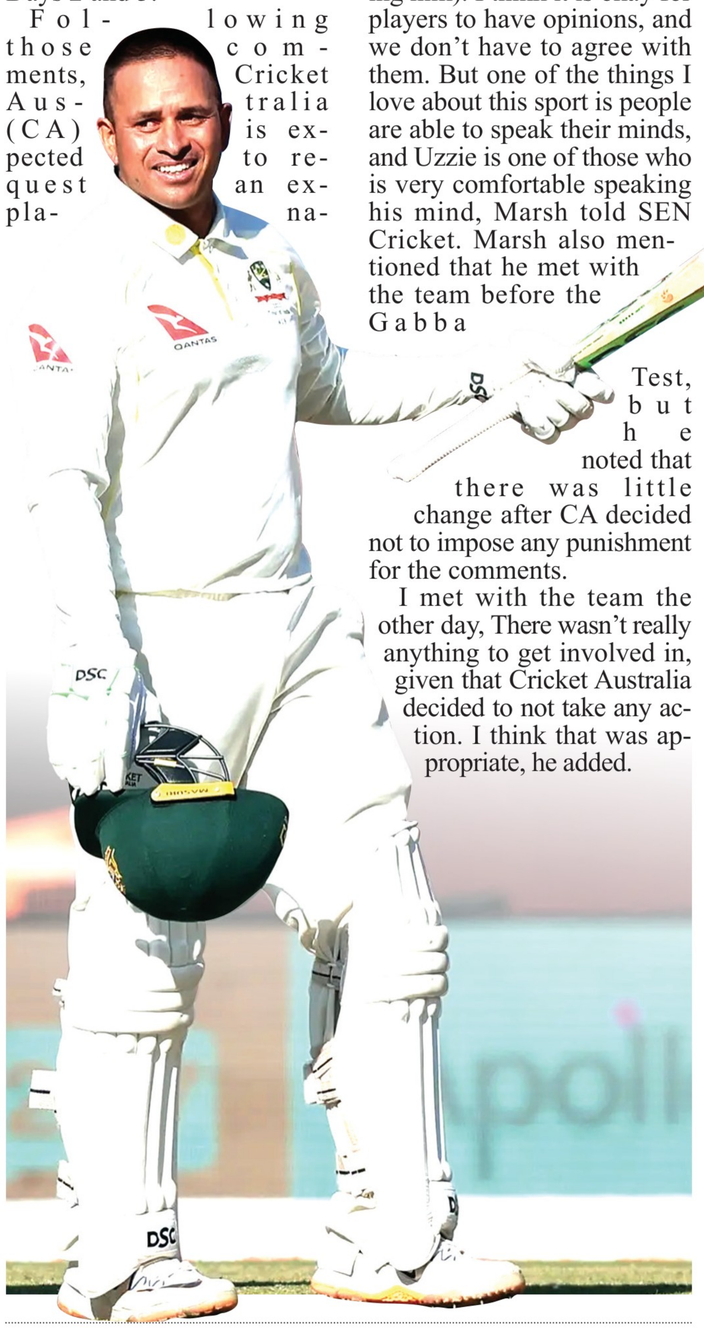
Paul Marsh, the current head of the Australian Cricketers Association (ACA), expressed that he was 'refreshed' by Cricket Australia's response to Usman Khawaja's remark about the Perth pitch for the Ashes opener. After Australia's eight-wicket victory over England at Perth Stadium, completed within two days, the 38-year-old veteran opener described the pitch as a piece of s**t due to 19 wickets falling on Day 1. However, he later mentioned that it improves for batting on Days 2 and 3.

Following those comments, Cricket Australia (CA) is expected to request an explanation from the 85-test veteran regarding his quote, especially since the ICC rated the pitch as 'very good,' the highest rating, despite the match ending in just two days.

Afterwards, CA confirmed that no action would be taken, noting that his remarks did not represent the team's view of the pitch. The ACA CEO said he felt quite rejuvenated by the decision and appreciated how Cricket Australia enables its players to express themselves genuinely.

It was refreshing. I agree with you, the AFL would have done exactly that (in finding him). I think it is okay for players to have opinions, and we don't have to agree with them. But one of the things I love about this sport is people are able to speak their minds, and Uzzie is one of those who is very comfortable speaking his mind, Marsh told SEN Cricket. Marsh also mentioned that he met with the team before the Gabba Test, but he noted that there was little change after CA decided not to impose any punishment for the comments.

I met with the team the other day, There wasn't really anything to get involved in, given that Cricket Australia decided to not take any action. I think that was appropriate, he added.



Former India coach Gary Kirsten joins Namibia's support staff to strengthen preparations for the 2026 T20 World Cup

Gary Kirsten Appointed Consultant for Namibia Ahead of 2026 T20 WC

WINDHOEK

Former India head coach Gary Kirsten has been appointed as a consultant for the Namibian men's cricket team as they gear up for the T20 World Cup 2026, scheduled to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka in February–March. The appointment is expected to significantly boost Namibia's technical preparedness as they aim to make a strong impact on the global stage.

Kirsten will work closely with Namibia's head coach Craig Williams, helping enhance the team's strategic direction and overall cricketing development. Expressing his enthusiasm for the new role, Kirsten said, It is indeed a privilege to work with Cricket Namibia.

I have been thoroughly impressed with the dedication and determination to create a high-performance cricket environment. Their new state-of-the-art stadium shows their commitment to ensuring their national teams compete with the best cricket countries in the world. Their senior men's team is performing well, and I look forward to adding value to their preparation for the T20 World Cup in February next year.

Namibia has steadily become a formidable presence in international cricket, qualifying for the last three T20 World Cups in 2021, 2022, and 2024. Their consistency has kept them firmly in contention for the upcoming edition as well. The country is also set to co-host the 2027 ODI World Cup alongside South Africa and Zimbabwe, further spotlighting its growing cricketing infrastructure and ambitions.

Kirsten brings with him a wealth of experience from a distinguished international playing career with South Africa between 1993 and 2004. He featured in 101 Test matches and scored 7,289 runs, including a memorable highest score of 275. In ODIs, he accumulated 6,798 runs, establishing himself as one of South Africa's most dependable top-order batters. Post-retirement, Kirsten transitioned into a highly respected coaching career.

NZ add uncapped pacer Michael Rae to squad for second Test against WI

CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand have added uncapped fast bowler Michael Rae to the Test squad for the second match against the West Indies, starting on December 10 in Wellington.

The 30-year-old pacer, who flew to Wellington to join the squad, has been called up to the squad after Matt Henry and Nathan Smith suffered injuries during the first Test in Christchurch.

Both Henry and Smith remain doubtful for the second Test in Wellington on Wednesday, largely due to the short turnaround between matches. Rae has been a consistent performer in domestic cricket in recent years, featuring in 69 first-class games and claiming 205 wickets at an average of 33.06, including three five-wicket hauls.

Meanwhile, with Black Caps wicketkeeper Tom Blundell ruled out of the upcoming Test after suffering a hamstring tear on the opening day in Christchurch, Mitch Hay has been added to the squad.

Hay is poised to make his debut and take over the gloves from captain Tom Latham, who kept wicket across both innings in Christchurch in addition to scoring 145 in New Zealand's second innings.

Injuries to Henry and Smith reduced New Zealand's attack to two frontline seamers and left them shouldering a heavy workload.

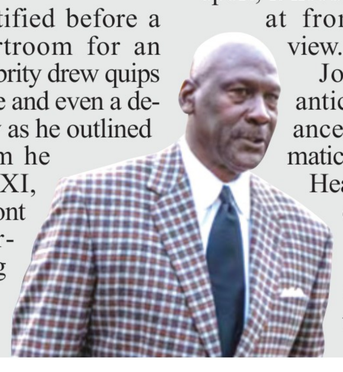
The West Indies capitalised on New Zealand's limited bowling resources to extend the Test into the final day. An unbeaten double century from Justin Greaves, 140 from Shai Hope and fighting fifty from Kemar Roach has saved the West Indies from defeat in the first Test against New Zealand in Christchurch.

Michael Jordan testifies in NASCAR antitrust trial

CHARLOTTE

Retired NBA great Michael Jordan took the stand at the landmark NASCAR antitrust case and testified that he has been a fan of the stock car series since he was a child but felt he had little choice but to sue to force changes in a business model he sees short-changing teams and drivers risking their lives to keep the sport going.

Jordan testified before a packed courtroom for an hour. His celebrity drew quips from the judge and even a defense attorney as he outlined why the team he co-owns, 23XI, had joined Front Row Motorsports in going to court against the top auto racing series in the United States.



Someone had to step forward and challenge the entity, the soft-spoken Jordan told the jury. I sat in those meetings with longtime owners who were brow-beaten for so many years trying to make change. I was a new person, I wasn't afraid. I felt I could challenge NASCAR as a whole. I felt as far as the sport, it needed to be looked at from a different view.

Jordan's highly anticipated appearance followed dramatic testimony from Heather Gibbs, the daughter-in-law of race team owner Joe Gibbs, about the chaotic six-hour period in which teams had to sign an extension or forfeit the charters that guarantee revenue week to week throughout NASCAR's 38-race season. The document was something in business you would never sign, said Heather Gibbs, who is also a licensed real estate agent. It was like a gun to your head: if you don't sign, you have nothing.

Charters are the equivalent of the franchise model used in other sports and in NASCAR it guarantees every chartered car a spot in every race, plus a defined payout from the series. The system was created in 2016, and during the two-plus years of bitter negotiations on an extension, teams begged for the renewable charters to be made permanent for revenue stability.

India Men's Hockey Team Faces SA in 3-Match Series at Cape Town

CAPETOWN

The Indian men's hockey team will take on South Africa today in the opening fixture of a three-match series at Stellenbosch, Cape Town. The contest, scheduled to begin at 8:30 pm Indian Standard Time, marks India's final international assignment of the calendar year and serves as an important opportunity to test combinations ahead of a busy 2025 season.The series, set for December 7th, 9th and 10th in the Western Cape region, brings together two teams looking to fine-tune their strategies before major global tournaments. India currently sit seventh in the world rankings, while South Africa are placed 12th. Despite the numerical gap, both sides are known for their physical play, quick turnovers and aggressive approaches—elements that promise a competitive and fast-paced series. The Indian contingent arrives in Cape Town riding high after their exceptional campaign at the Asia Cup 2025, where they reclaimed continental dominance with a decisive 4-1 victory over Korea in the final.

MESSI LAUDS

Messi Hails Inter Miami After Clinching MLS Cup

FORT LAUDERDALE

Inter Miami captain Lionel Messi has praised his teammates' unwavering determination after the club secured its first-ever MLS Cup title with a 3-1 win over Vancouver Whitecaps. The 38-year-old Argentine superstar said the victory capped a gruelling yet rewarding campaign that saw Miami compete across multiple tournaments with remarkable consistency.

Reflecting on the triumph, Messi highlighted the team's commitment throughout a season that included an exhausting 58 matches in all competitions. One of the objectives when we arrived here was this, he said, recalling his 2023 arrival alongside former Barcelona teammates Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets. We were able to win the Leagues Cup as soon as we arrived. Now we've had a great year, where we competed in every competition we had to play. We reached another Leagues Cup final and we played a CONCACAF Champions Cup semifinal.

Messi noted that while last year Miami topped the regular-season standings but exited early in the playoffs, the squad entered the 2025 season with a renewed objective: to win MLS. The team put in a huge effort. It's been a very long year with a lot of matches, and the team was up to the task, he added.

The Argentine maestro played a pivotal role in Saturday's final, providing two crucial assists—first to Rodrigo De Paul and then to Tadeo Allende—as Miami pulled away in the closing stages. Messi concluded the MLS campaign with staggering numbers: 35 goals and 23 assists in 33 league appearances. Across all competitions in 2025, he contributed 43 goals and 26 assists in 49 matches, underlining his continued brilliance at the highest level.

Messi also paid an emotional tribute to Alba and Busquets, who had announced their retirement at the end of the season. Something very beautiful is ending for them, something to which they dedicated their whole lives. From now on, another life begins, he said.

KRISTU JAYANTI
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
Under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956
A CMI INSTITUTION | BENGALURU | INDIA

Pursuing Higher Education at Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University)

the most preferred educational destination in Bengaluru

- Managed by CMI Fathers
- Reaccredited with **A++ Grade by NAAC**
- **Clean and Smart Campus Award by AICTE & GoI**
- **Asia's Education Award 2019** by International Brand Consulting Corporation, USA
- Internationally **Accredited by ACBSP**
- 16000+ Students
- Rated as
  - 4th Best BCA College in India
  - 11th Best MSW College in India
  - 18th Best BBA College in India
  - 19th Best Commerce College in India
  - 19th Best Arts College in India
  - 23rd Best Mass Communication College in India.
  - 26th Best Science College in India

India Today - MDRA survey 2025

STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE

- Green and serene campus
- Wi-fi connectivity and smart class rooms
- Cutting edge laboratories
- Three Libraries with over 81548 books, over 319 journals, 08 online data bases including 48850 plus e-journals, and 2.7 Lakh E-books
- Separate hostel for boys and girls
- Gymnasium and sports facilities for fitness
- Campus Management Solution monitors the student performance
- Cafeterias offering ethnic tastes

OTHER FEATURES

- Global student community
- Exposure to partner universities in France, Germany, US, Canada & Japan
- Curriculum with industry relevant components
- Campus placement offered by over 100 + corporate recruiters
- Interaction with Global and Indian Visionaries
- Social outreach and sensitization programmes
- Kristu Jayanti Learning Management System (KJLMS) for blended learning
- Co-curricular and extra curricular clubs and associations for student support
- Training in Sports, Theatre, Dance & Music

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.